

C I T I Z E N P O T A W A T O M I N A T I O N

# HowNiKan

*People of the Fire*

*HowNiKan December (Bbon Gises) 2009, vol. 30 issue 8*

## Inside this issue

Walking On, Page 2

Language Department , Page 5



Denver Holloway Moves On, Page 7

Bray's Vikes are Champions, Page 11

Artist of the Month, Page 12

Legislative Columns, Pages 14-21

E-mail your legislator !!

### CPN member William Nadeau shares honor

## AARP/Oklahoma honors 50 Indian elders

American Indians from across Oklahoma gathered for AARP Oklahoma's first Indian Elder Honors on November 17th in Oklahoma City. Fifty American Indian Elder Honorees were recognized from more than 30 tribes at the event, which featured the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers and was attended by several hundred people.

Among the honorees were authors, poets, educators, chiefs and governors; elders who have kept their cultures alive by saving traditional dance and language; and those who have fought for federal recognition of their tribes and nations and veterans – including the last surviving Native American from the Bataan Death March.

AARP National President-Elect Lee Hammond was on hand to deliver the keynote address and help present medallions along with AARP Oklahoma Volunteer State President Marjorie Lyons and State Director Nancy Coffey. Hammond praised the honorees and noted AARP's commitment to reach diverse populations. He also reminded the audience of AARP Founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus' motto, "to serve and not be



*Surrounded by other Indian Elder Honorees, Citizen Potawatomi Nation member William Nadeau accepts his medal from AARP Oklahoma State Director Nancy Coffey.*

served."

"It was a beautiful night to salute these American Indian Elders," said Lyons. "AARP Oklahoma has pledged to continue working with Oklahoma Indians to understand their unique needs and find ways that the association can help them age with dignity."

Citizen Potawatomi elder William

Nadeau was among the number as those 50 American Indian elders gathered at Oklahoma City's Will Rogers Theater to be honored by the American Association of Retired Person (AARP) Oklahoma chapter. Nadeau, a World War II veteran, had been honored as the *HowNiKan's* March CPN "Elder of the Month."

His Potawatomi bloodline stems from three branches of his family tree: Nadeau, Plomodon, and Bourbonnais. A World War II veteran, he was a member of 22nd bomb group, 2nd squadron, working on Okinawa servicing B-24 bombers. After the war, he returned to farming, drove a school bus and eventually worked rebuilding aircraft parts at Tinker Air Force Base for 15 years. He is an esteemed Potawatomi Elder and is recognized for his gentle spirit.

The Honorees are: James Anquoe, Kiowa; Tony Arkeketa, Ponca; Turner Bear Jr., Muscogee (Creek); Gene Bible, *See ELDERS HONORED on page 6*



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801

NONPROFIT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
OKLA CITY, OK  
PERMIT NO. 1344



# Walking On

**Lula Mae “Lu” Haskew**



Lula Mae ‘Lu’ Haskew was born February 7, 1921 in Hydro, Oklahoma. She was the second of eight children born to Martin Richard ‘Dick’ Self and her CPN-member mother, Bertha Inez Schalles Self. Lu passed away on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 in Loveland, Colorado. Lu was a sister of former CPN Dist. #8 Representative Jackie Taylor.

She married John Haskew of Hollis, Oklahoma in 1942. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in February 2009. They have two sons, Mike Haskew of Hayden, Idaho and Denny Haskew of Loveland.

Lu had a successful career as an elementary school teacher, finishing at Winona Elementary School in Loveland. Upon retirement, she pursued her hobby in painting to become a successful and well-known artist with paintings in galleries in Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. She studied with renowned artist Richard Schmidt. Also, she taught art classes on Tuesdays in Loveland continuing to teach into October 2009. Her son, Denny, is a noted sculptor and created “Trail of Tears” which is on permanent display in the Citizen Potawatomi Museum.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Lucille Hoffman and Jackie Taylor; and brothers, Arlis Self and Bud Self.

In addition to her husband and sons, she is survived by daughter-in-law, Karen Haskew of Hayden, Idaho; sisters and their spouses, Evelyn and Bill Thompson of Midwest City, Oklahoma and Patricia and Richard Hall of Tulsa; a brother and his

spouse, Kenneth and Leigh Self of Aurora, Colorado; brother-in-law, Nelson Taylor of Astoria, Oregon; granddaughters, Stacy, Kellie, and Brigitte; grandsons, Greg and Patrick; seven great-granddaughters; six great-grandsons; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A Celebration of Lu’s Life was held at the Loveland Museum/Gallery in Loveland, Colorado.

**Richard ‘Bud’ Self, Jr.**



Richard ‘Bud’ Self, Jr. was born August 26, 1926 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was the fourth of eight children born to Martin Richard ‘Dick’ Self and Bertha Inez Schalles Self. He passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2009 in Olathe, Colorado.

All eight Self children graduated from Thomas, Oklahoma High School. Bud was a member of the Class of 1944. He is a brother of former CPN Dist. #8 Representative Jackie Taylor.

After graduation from high school, Richard enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Europe during WWII. After the war, he was a part of the post-war occupation forces in both Germany and Japan. While serving in Germany, he met his future wife, Helen Skabrizka. They married in 1952. This union provided their son, David Richard Self.

Upon military retirement, Richard

began a second career as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service with the family residing in Aurora, Colorado. After he retired from the Postal Service, Richard was able to devote more time to his hobbies as an avid outdoorsman and hunter. He looked forward to the deer, elk, and bear seasons each year. After the death of his wife, Richard relocated to Montrose, Colorado.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Helen; sisters, Lucille Hoffman and Jackie Taylor; and brother, Arlis Self. His sister Lu Haskew walked on a mere following Richard’s passing.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, David and Amy Self of Gunnison, Colorado; sisters and their spouses Evelyn and Bill Thompson of Midwest City, Oklahoma and Patricia and Richard Hall of Tulsa; a brother and his spouse, Kenneth and Leigh Self of Aurora; brothers-in-law Nelson Taylor of Astoria, Oregon and John Haskew of Loveland, Colorado; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A funeral service was conducted at the Olinger Hampden Mortuary in Denver with burial at the Ft. Logan Military Cemetery in Denver.

**Ashley Green Blackman, Jr.**



Retired Master Sergeant Ashley Green Blackman, Jr. walked on at Grapevine, Texas on October 28, 2009 at Ethicus Hospital. Ashley was 71 years old. Ashley

## HOWNIKAN

The *HowNiKan* is published by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The *HowNiKan* is mailed free to enrolled tribal members. Subscriptions to non-members are available for \$10 annually in the United States and \$12 for foreign countries.

The *HowNiKan* is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the *HowNiKan* and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

All letters and submissions become the property of the *HowNiKan*. Editorials and letters are subject to editing and must contain traceable address. Final selection of material for publication is subject to approval by the Business Committee.

All correspondence should be directed to *HowNiKan*, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801. Address changes should be sent to Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1899 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

### CPN Executive Committee:

Chairman - John A. Rocky Barrett

Vice Chairman - Linda Capps

Sec./Treasurer - D. Wayne Trousdale

Editor - Michael Dodson

Toll-Free Number: 800-880-9880

was born on August 24, 1938 in Hobbs, New Mexico. He attended schools at Hobbs until he went into the Navy for four years and then joined the Air Force, retiring from the military in July 1979. He worked for the FAA for 20 years and retired from that career in January 1997.

While Ashley was in the Navy, he met his wife, Kay Richards, in Imperial Beach, California. They were married on August 22, 1958. They celebrated 51 years of married life this past August. Kay was the light of Ashley's life.

Ashley was a lifetime member of the Moose Lodge, VFW, and American Legion. He was a member of the Northridge Baptist Church of Keller, Texas.

Ashley loved his country and his fellow Americans who served in the armed forces. He was a driver for the DAV for about four years. He was very compassionate toward his fellow veterans and went out of his way to pick them up to take to their doctors appointments and for their cancer treatment, even when it meant getting up early to drive to Mineral Wells, Texas to pick them up, take them to the VA Hospital in Dallas and to Fort Worth to the VA clinic then take them back home.

He was dependable and considerate and just wanted to help his fellow servicemen all that he could. He wanted to give back to his country what his country gave to him - Honor. He was awarded the North Texas DAV volunteer award in June 2005 for all the hours that he put in to help the men and women who serve our country and needed help to get to the medical facilities for their appointments.

Ashley was always going out of his way to help family, friends, and anyone else who needed it.

Ashley was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Shawnee, Oklahoma. On June 30, 2007, he received his Potawatomi name, Ogichida, which means warrior. That was one of the happiest and proudest days of his life. He is a descendant of the Hardin, Riley, Beaubien, and LaFromboise Families.

Ashley's family would like to thank the doctors and the ICU nurses at Baylor Grapevine and Ethicus Hospital of Grapevine for the wonderful care that they gave him and for the support they gave to the family while he was hospitalized. We would like to thank everyone who donated blood and blood platelets and sent up all the prayers that have been said for him and

the family.

Ashley is survived by his wife, Kay Richards Blackman, of Keller; two sons, George M. Blackman and his girlfriend, Donna Leiber, of Clinton, Missouri and Robert Blackman and his wife Janet of Clinton; a brother and sister-in-law, Thomas and Shirley Blackman, of Hobbs; a sister and brother-in-law, Doris and Jerry Mitchell, of Richardson, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Dannette Blackman; parents Ashley and Mamie Ray Blackman; and two sisters, Dorothy Guthrie and Delia Douglas.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to your favorite charity or to Northridge Baptist Church, in care of Dan Oliver. The address for the church is 11910 Old Denton Rd., Keller, TX 76248.

Graveside services for Ashley were held on Saturday October 31, 2009 at the Mount Olivet Cemetery, 2301 N. Sylvaina Ave. in Fort Worth. Visitation was Friday October 30, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Mount Olivet Funeral Home, 2301 N. Sylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

**Alberta Noma Dowdy**



Alberta Noma Dowdy, 85, walked on on October 21, 2009 at her daughter's home in Barstow, California. She was born on September 18, 1924 in Musselshell, Montana, the daughter of Lycurgus Stovall and Mary Elizabeth (Bowles) Stovall. She was a descendant of the Toupin family and had been a resident of Barstow for 62 years.

Alberta was the youngest of seven children. In the late 1940s, she went to Poulsbo, Washington to live with her sister. While there, she worked on the production front in the war effort at the Naval Torpedo Station at Keyport, Washington.

During that time, Alberta met her future

husband, James T. Dowdy, a Marine stationed at the Naval base in Bremerton, Washington. They were married on November 18, 1945. The Dowdys were transferred to the Naval base in Long Beach, California. In 1947, their son Richard was born. After her husband's honorable discharge, Alberta and her family moved to Barstow, where their daughter Carolyn was born in 1949.

Alberta was a forklift operator and taxi driver at Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow for 22 years. After retirement, she enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping with her husband.

Preceding her in death were her husband of 53 years, James T. Dowdy; her parents, Lycurgus and Mary Stovall; her sisters Regina Turley, Edith Anderson, and

Grace Lent; and brothers Jess Stovall, Lycurgus 'Kirk' Stovall, and Preston Stovall.

She is survived by her children, Richard Dowdy and his wife, Nancy of Boron, California and Carolyn Atsye and her husband, Alvin, of Barstow; grandchildren, Louise Atsye-Garcia, Aaron Atsye, Cynthia Hathaway, and Sarah Prado; and great-grandchildren, Allyse Atsye, Erika Hodge, Bradlee Hathaway, and Sienna Atsye.

A memorial service for Alberta was held on Monday, October 26 at 10 a.m. at Mead Mortuary in Barstow with Pastor Dave Henry officiating. There was a private family interment. Arrangements were under the direction of Mead Mortuary.

*See WALKING ON on page 23*

## San Remo's Restaurant

*Fine Italian Cuisine*

**Monday - Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.**  
**Friday & Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

*Located atop the Firelake Golf Course Clubhouse*

*"LOVE LOVE LOVE the place! We go on a regular basis and for any special occasion. Prices are reasonable, food is great. Pizza is the best." - Online Reviewer*

*"I know people who drive from Tulsa (about an hour and a half away) just to eat here and take home some fresh and homemade cannoli." - Another San Remo's patron.*

## FIRELAKE GOLF

**For the special golfer in your life we have a lot to offer...**

**FireLake Caps - FireLake Pullovers - FireLake Polo Shirts**  
**Pro VI Golf Balls - Nike, Callaway, Taylor Made, Titleist Caps**  
**Callaway Shoes - Footjoy Shoes**  
**Ping Putters - Ping and Taylor Made Golf Bags**  
**College Towels (OU and OSU) - College Divot Tools (OU and OSU)**  
**OU Golf Bag - OSU Golf Bag**  
**Wilson, Srixon, Top Flite, Nitro, Callaway, Nike Golf Balls**  
**Many brands of Golf Gloves in stock**  
**And Much More!**

**Come see us.**

**We are open until 5:30 daily, weather permitting.**



# CPN Library Musings

## Citizen Potawatomi Names

All names mean something. I had an acupuncturist once whose name was Tieh. His colleagues called him Ted or 'Teddy.' Another less friendly group of children called Po Chow 'Pork Chop' until I asked his mother what her first-born son's name meant. She told me that it meant 'very strong' almost like a 'super' man. Tieh meant 'strong' like Iron or Steel.

This group of Chinese were in the habit of giving their male children names reflecting strength and their female children names reflecting beauty. The French had the habit of naming the majority of their males 'Jean' (John) or 'Jean Baptiste' (John the Baptist) and their females Marie (Mary).

Until about 1100 A.D., most people in Europe had only one name. This is still true in some countries today. It is also true for Potawatomi seeking their Potawatomi language names and traditional roots.

As non-Indian populations in their European villages increased, and male dominance prevailed, except in Iceland, a second name (a surname) was needed to distinguish one John (Jean) or Marie (Mary) from another. In primitive European non-Indian cultures, there were usually four primary sources for these second names (surnames). These sources were: a **MAN**'s occupation, **HIS** location, **HIS FATHER**'s name (patronym), or some peculiar characteristic of **HIS**.

In dealing with occupations, consider that a local house builder might be John Carpenter, a food preparer might be John Cook, a grain grinder John Miller (remember the character in Robin Hood, Midge the Miller), a suitmaker John Taylor, or a good fisherman John Fisher.

In dealing with locations, consider over or under the hill becoming John Overhill or John Underhill. Perhaps a person lived near a stream, with his name becoming John Brook, Rivers, Brooks, or Atbrook.

What about patronyms? Since patro-



nymical (father's name) names were the norm in the European patriarchal **MALE**-dominant system, you would have sons and daughters with surnames ending in son.

Some examples outlined in the "Crumbo Family" book are attached to the back end: Danes and Norwegians – sen; Finns from Finland – nen; Greeks – pulos; Spaniards – ez, and Poles from Poland – Wiecz (vee-ech). The Celts on the other hand put the "son" indicator in the front. For example, the Scots and Irish – Mac; Normans – Fitz; Welsh – Ap.

Related to these would be the Irish "O" that indicated the **MALE** grandparent.

Last, but not least, would be a characteristic-based surname. Think about the great dark-haired **FEMALE** opera singer Elizabeth Swarzkopf. If Swarz = black and Kopf = head, it's easy to understand the etymology of her surname.. What about the Hollywood star and Governor of California? Perhaps an unusually small person could be named Small, Lytle, Short, or Little. A large man, conversely, could be Longfellow, Lang, or Long.

What then, of the Potawatomi? Leaning toward the natural world, more like the Chinese, they came up with such names as Keewaunee, Neeboush, Messah, Missnigoqua, Wabnopitcheequay, Waubaunsee, Shabbona, etc. What does your Potawatomi name mean, and when will you know it?

# Health Aid Foundation News

Bozho, Nikan,

There is a lot of work being done on "Brainwork" these days because Alzheimer's disease has become a major health problem, especially for our elders.

If your memory is not what it once was, join the club. Senility is not for everyone. What has sometimes been assumed to be a "normal" part of aging in a certain percentage of people is not necessarily so. In the absence of Alzheimer's and other brain-specific disorders, there is no reason to believe your brain will go downhill as you age. According to resources, many people decline in brain function in later years as a main result of physical inactivity, a lack of mental stimulation, and poor nutrition.

Physical exercise is believed to be the first major part of maintaining healthy brain function. Many studies indicate that people who exercise regularly have healthier minds. Therefore, keep that heart pumping, the muscles active, and blood flowing to your brain. It will be an additional benefit. Of course, you will need to contact your doctor to insure what amount of exercise is right for you.

There is an information brochure called "Staying Sharp" which can be downloaded from [www.AARP.org](http://www.AARP.org) and another one titled "Maintain Your Brain" at [www.ALZ.org](http://www.ALZ.org).

There is a variety of things to stimulate



brain activity. Among these are playing games such as crossword puzzles, chess, cards, trivia, etc. Use image association to remember names. There is also the choice of learning a new language or playing, or learning to play, a musical instrument.

Above all, if you feel that you are having difficulty remembering, contact your doctor for an evaluation as soon as possible. Resources state that the B Vitamins are vital to normal brain and nerve function. But, again, contact your doctor before you start treating yourself.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

O Mamogosan Enozhoyek mine Epich mnozhewebziyek

(May the Lord bless you and keep you safe and in good health)

Joyce Abel, R.N.

## Answering the Call Citizen Potawatomi Nation Firelodge and Family Services

We are looking for foster and adoptive parents  
for our Potawatomi children.

You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are many  
children in our tribe's care who would love to put up with you.

If your family is interested please contact  
the Indian Child Welfare Department at  
405-878-4831  
ask for Darla Ham or Laurie Clark



# Potawatomi Language

## Mshike ndopanit - Turtle Goes to War

*Traditional story written down by Alanson Skinner*

Once, there was a well-known brave, Snapping Turtle, who became angry. All the people wondered why he acted so strangely. "Our Brave is very cranky," said the other turtles. "Something must be in the air."

One day, a messenger came to all of them, calling each to appear at Snapping Turtle's wigwam. All the turtle people were glad, and hoped that this meant that he would be in good humor, so they came and feasted. Then Snapping turtle addressed them: "My brothers, I am angry at mankind. I am going to raise a war party and fight them."

All the turtles agreed that they had received many insults from men, and were ready to go. So that night, when everyone was asleep, the chosen warriors started out to do battle. They traveled from dawn until dusk; and then they rested and slept.

One of their number, the little Box turtle, had a dream of a bad omen. This made Snapping Turtle angry, but he said that he has no faith in omens, and that he was determined to fight anyway. Each dawn, he called on his followers to narrate their dreams of the night before, and each morning they had only evil to report. One morning Box Turtle sang this song: "Oh! Snapping Turtle, I see you now! They are throwing all of us turtles in a sack!"

"Say, don't sing that," hissed Snapping

Turtle. But, Box Turtle kept right on, continuing to sing. So Snapping Turtle, that illustrious Brave, went up to him and kicked him. Then, Snapping Turtle found that Box Turtle was even singing in his sleep.

The blow struck Box Turtle on the breast so hard that it broke his shell, and you may still see the break, (well-known hinge), to this very day.

Snapping Turtle said, "Next time, if you value your life Box Turtle you will sing, Snapping Turtle, the Brave, he is the one who cleans up all the villages wherever he goes." I don't want you to sing that I get my people thrown into a sack. It is a bad song. Sing rather that I am the one who makes a clean sweep wherever he goes, and throws the enemy into hysterics."

Box Turtle was indignant and answered, "I don't want your people put in a sack. This is not my fault. I was asleep, and my dream, of which I sang, came out that way. Who am I to control my dreams?"

Again, they started out to war, and at last they arrived at an Indian village. The turtles gave their war whoop and charged upon the village. When the outcry was heard, all the women ran out of their wigwams.

"Oh! Look at the turtles," they cried. Exclaiming with delight at such good fortune, they ran for their sacks and threw the

turtles in them, except Box Turtle, who was so badly hurt by Snapping Turtle's kick that he had lagged behind.

One of the turtles named Meskwaka (The Painted Turtle) was so prettily marked with red that the woman who picked him up hugged him close to her breast. He bit off her finger. In her rage, she threw him into the water, and, of course, he escaped. So this one, indeed, counted coup on the enemy.

The women carried their captives home, and were very angry about the blow that the one turtle had struck. They held a council over the war leader, Snapping Turtle. One said, "Let's burn him to death, he is our enemy."

"Hau," said Snapping Turtle, "That will be good!"

"No," said the council, "he is too desirous of dying that way. He thinks in his heart that he will be able to kick the fire all over and thus destroy our lodges."

"Let us put him up and shoot him with arrows."

"Hau," said Snapping Turtle, "Indeed, you have discovered the best way!"

"No," decided the council, "The arrows will glance off and many will be wounded thereby."

"Let us then boil him in the great earthen kettle."

"Ehe," said Snapping Turtle, "in that

way, I would die gladly!"

"No," announced the council. "He thinks that he will be able to splatter boiling water over us, and scald us to death."

"In that case," said another, "Let us throw him in the river!"

At these words, Snapping Turtle and his followers began to beg for mercy, and plead that they not be drowned. They claimed that this was an awful punishment. The women thought that at last they had hit upon the right thing, and tossed every turtle into the river. But, really, those turtles lived in the water, and they not only all escaped, but whenever the women went for water, they would roil it up, and by digging in the bottoms would spoil the springs.

The men of the Indian village would not believe that the turtles had deceived their wives until one day they saw a whole lot of turtles enjoying the sun on a log. The snappers dwelt in the springs under the mud, and the men learned that turtles cannot be drowned.

After their escape, the Turtles held a great victory dance at Snapper's house, and the Red Turtle was the hero, because he alone had counted coup. Snapping Turtle and Box Turtle have never been able to get along together since the war party, and they do not even dwell in the same locality with each other since the raid.

## Wiske and the Buzzard

Long ago, the buzzard, Winage, was a pretty bird. It felt itself to be superior to all other members of the feathered class, and Wiske was jealous of it. But, there was no way in which Wiske could get hold of it, even on the highest mountains and tree-tops. Winage, for its part, would not even look at Wiske, much less talk to him. This made Wiske angrier than ever.

At length, Wiske found a dead deer, and collected some dead moose and other animals. He piled them where he hoped Winage would find them and eat so much that he could not fly. The crows, ravens, and other birds flocked to the place so numerously that Wiske could not drive them away.

But, the buzzard, Winage, would not

come. This made Wiske still angrier, so he got another dead moose, and put that out. But, only the ravens came to feast on it.

Wiske found still another moose that was drowned; he watched it. This time, the buzzard came, but the ravens drove it away.

Then Wiske transformed himself into a dead elk, and drove off the swarming ravens with clubs. So they lit on trees and warned everyone that the dead elk was really Wiske. The buzzard heard them, but did not believe their story, because the elk smelled so badly.

At last, Winage came up to the carcass, bit at its rump, and found it tender. Winage saw some delicious-looking fat inside. Winage finally thrust its head and neck

inside the carcass to reach the fat.

Then, Wiske closed the opening and sprang up with the buzzard entrapped. "There," said he, "I knew that I would catch this pretty bird some day."

Wiske went everywhere, showing all the people the helpless buzzard caught by the head. The birds, having talked it over, told Wiske that they thought it was not fair. They offered to take Wiske away, up above, if he would free their brother. Wiske then loosed the buzzard, who volunteered to carry him aloft on his back.

Wiske straddled Winage's neck, and the buzzard took him up on a high mountain, and there made Wiske dismount telling him that the birds would return for him later. But they never did, and Wiske was

left in a place from which he could not escape.

He besought an eagle to help him by bringing a very large stick. When the eagle brought it, Wiske slew the bird and stretched its wings over the stick. He jumped down, holding the middle of the pole and relying on the wings to act as a parachute and let him down gently. He landed in a hollow tree down which he fell, and was caught again.

Some Indians who were out hunting saw their dogs barking at the tree where Wiske was caught. The Indians supposed that they had found a bear, but when they chopped a hole in the tree, out stepped Wiske, who told them how he became  
*See POTAWATOMI LANGUAGE on page 22*



## Community Development Corporation

As we near the end of the year, it is time to think about your financial goals for 2010. For some of us that means we are examining our retirement plans while some are gearing up to buy their first house. No matter what your ambition, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation has a few simple steps that can help you on your way to financial security.

**1. Set Clear Goals** – Remember to make SMART goal. SMART goals are, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, and Time bound. An example of this would be: I would like to pay off two of my high interest credit cards by the end of 2010.

**2. Spend Less Than You Make and Owe Less Than You Can Afford** – It is easy in the now society we live in to want instant gratification, but saving for a purchase instead of paying interest can enhance your way of life over time. If you always owe less than you can afford it stands to reason you will be able to save more and feel more financially secure.

**3. Save for a Rainy Day** – It is easy to save if you remember to take it small at first and increase it as you can. Remember if you save only \$10.00/month (that is only \$2.31 a week) starting in January, 2010 you will have \$120.00 by December, 2010.

**4. Reduce Your Debt With the**

**Snowball Method** – This is the easiest way to reduce your debts. Examine your finances and determine in what order you want to pay off your debt. Some may opt for starting with the highest interest while some may prefer the debt with the lowest balance. After you pay off the first debt, add that amount to the payment you are making on your next debt. If you continue to “snowball” your payments, it doesn’t take long see a significant change in your finances.

**5. Insurance and Taxes** – Examine your insurance coverage regularly and make sure you shop around for the best rate as it can vary between providers. Also, make sure you know what tax credits and deductions are available to you. You can go to [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) to see what is offered for this year. Also, remember that thousands of people who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit do not claim it and therefore forfeit their right to a larger tax refund.

**6. Open an Inconvenient Savings Account** – If you have trouble-leaving money in savings, it may be a good idea to store those funds in a savings account where you have limited access. You can make an account as inaccessible as you want. Just visit with your local bank representative and request you have no debit

card access and no online banking attached to your savings account. If you have to make that inconvenient drive to the bank to make a withdrawal, often you will decide you do not need the funds after all.

**7. Pay Yourself** – You work hard for your money, and your money can work hard for you, too. But, you must remember to pay yourself. If you view your savings as paying yourself for a later goal, whether it be an emergency fund to reduce your stress level or saving for that new big-screen television you have always wanted, you will find that money can accumulate quickly when you prioritize saving. Many banking institutions offer services that automatically make a withdrawal from your checking account and transfer it to a savings account of your choosing. In addition, many times you can ask your local payroll department to deposit a portion of your earnings into a separate account.

**8. Make it a Family Affair** – Most of us learned our money habits from our parents. If you include the whole family in setting financial goals, you might find they are more cooperative to help you accomplish those goals. As an added benefit, your children will be learning how to manage their finances and how to make better financial decisions.

If you find yourself in a pinch this holi-

day season, I hope you will remember that we at the CPCDC have two certified credit counselors on staff to help you get back on track. If you need relief from creditor calls and letters, stress caused by your financial situation, or feelings of financial helplessness, or if you just want to learn better money management, let the Citizen Potawatomi Counseling Service help put you back in control.

Whether you need to develop a budget or learn to pay off debt more quickly, confidential budget and/or debt counseling can ensure that you are on track for a bright financial future. We are counseling out of our office at 130 E. MacArthur, Suite 206, in Shawnee, but we can also provide counseling over the phone for members outside the Shawnee area. Please contact one of our credit counselors at 405-878-4697 or via e-mail to Felecia Freeman at [ffreeman@potawatomi.org](mailto:ffreeman@potawatomi.org) or Tina Pollard at [tpollard@potawatomi.org](mailto:tpollard@potawatomi.org) to schedule an appointment.

In closing, we at the CPCDC would like to encourage everyone to double-check your financial goals. As with any journey, the road to financial freedom requires a road map and that road map can work only if you know where you are headed.



# CITIZEN POTAWATOMI

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### *Indian Elders Honored, con't from page 1*

Muscogee (Creek); Kennedy Brown, Chickasaw; Dr. Guyneth Bedoka Cardwell, Caddo; Allan Colbert, Muscogee (Creek); Ethel Cook, Ottawa; Phillip Coon, Muscogee (Creek); Gracie Dailey, Seminole; Lorena DeRoin, Otoe-Missouria; Eula Doonkeen, Seminole; Jerry Douglas, Delaware Tribe; Tewanna Edwards, Chickasaw; Martha Bull Frog Ellis Edwards, Absentee Shawnee; Mary (Spooners) Ellis, Sac and Fox Nation; Chief Bill Follis, Modoc; and Chief Lawrence Hart, Cheyenne Arapaho.

Also, Jacob Fixico, Kialegee Tribal Town; Melinda Ann Gibson, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town; Lupe A. Gooday, Sr., Fort Sill Apache; Barbara Goodin, Comanche; George Elton Howell, Pawnee; Juanita Johnson, Kickapoo; John Ketcher, Cherokee; Doris Jean Lamar McLemore, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes; Bill Mashunkashey, Osage; Nadine Mayfield, Miami; Florence Whitecrow Matthews, Quapaw; William Nadeau, Citizen Potawatomi; Ted Nesvold, Wyandotte; Levi Orphan, Chickasaw/Choctaw; Don

Patterson, Tonkawa; Norma Price, Choctaw; and Dr. Lahoma Schultz, Ph.D., Creek and Seminole.

Also, Mae Sine, Iowa; Leo Smallwood, Choctaw; Wayne Smith, Seneca-Cayuga; Hickory Starr, Cherokee; Wanda Stone, Kaw; James Squirrel, Shawnee; George Phillip Tiger, Creek; Vernon Tsoodle, Kiowa; Barbara Warner, Ponca; Modina Waters (Toppah/Yellowhair), Kiowa; Chief Glenna Wallace, Eastern Shawnee; Chief George Wickliffe, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee; Evangeline Wilson, Choctaw; and Tarpie Yargee, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town.

As former Oklahoma City television news anchor Cherokee Ballard recited accomplishments of the Fifty Honored Elders, several themes emerged. Aside from the overwhelming importance of the achievements of these Indian members of America’s “Greatest Generation,” one of the more interesting threads was these people’s remarkable flexibility.

Biography after biography featured mention of an elder’s having reached a significant level of achievement then obtaining more education or training to pivot into a new career and even greater achievement.



CPN member led tribe's farming enterprise for nine years

## Denver Holloway tackles new challenges within farming sector

*(Editor's note: CPN leaders have extended deepest good wishes for his future to tribal member Denver Holloway, who had much more than ably led the Nation's farming effort for the past nine years. Holloway has accepted a position with Gateway Pipeline, where he will where he will manage the company's lands. The following was written by his sister, Jernda Lawrence, who works in the Nation's Office of Self-Governance, and was delivered by Vice Chairman Linda Capps at a going-away reception for Denver.)*

Denver was born to be a farmer/rancher. Denver and I played countless hours in a corner of our mother's garden with Tonka trucks, tractors, etc. Mama would make us "pick the garden" then we would go right back to our farms and ranches in the edge of the garden. His favorite truck back then was a flatbed truck—He's still driving them today.

When Denver was only 3 or 4 years old, I remember him sitting on Grandpa Hull's lap, steering the tractor. He would spend all day in the field with Grandpa plowing peanuts, planting corn, cotton, or cane.

Farming is a heritage from all sides of the family: the Hulls (our maternal grandparents), the Holloways (our Potawatomi family), and the Blevinses (the stepfather who raised us).

When Denver outgrew the Tonka trucks, he bought his own old pickup. (You'll have to ask Denver what year and model; I'm not good at that). He helped his daddy, grandpas, and many peanut farmers and ranchers in Pittsburgh and Hughes counties to work their crops and cattle.

Denver held several offices in Stuart, Oklahoma High School's FFA chapter, including president. He won many ribbons in livestock shows and land and livestock judging competitions.

Denver went to Okmulgee Tech and learned diesel mechanics before going to work for a trucking company in the Tulsa area. He and Martha bought acreage around Bristow, Oklahoma but he still wanted to farm. They moved back to the Pittsburgh County area, and he took a job with UPS as a mechanic.

He worked at night at UPS. During the days, he and Martha farmed. He would catch a few winks in the evening before going back to work at UPS. They raised



cattle, peanuts, hay, and kids - and still helped their neighbors and kinfolk to get their farming done.

Denver's other interests:

### Music

Our family was always active in church, and we sang Southern Gospel music together. As we all got old enough, Mama taught us each to sing our own "parts." Daddy sang bass, Denver sang tenor, I sang alto, and our little sister sang the lead, while Mama played the piano for our four-part harmony. Denver never opened his mouth more than about a quarter-inch, but he sure sang a pretty tenor.

Mama spent many hours teaching us basic music on the piano, then our parents bought us a bass and a guitar. It took me hours and hours playing with Mama to learn the bass part, but Denver picked it all up very quickly. I would be concentrating on the music and my notes, while Denver looked off out the window at the barn and never missed a chord on the guitar. He has a natural talent in music.

We had a little band during Jr. High and High School that Denver and I participated in. We sang for churches, graduations, and other school activities. We also competed in the 4-H Share the Fun talent shows against up-and-coming music stars, including Reba and Pake McIntire down in Pittsburgh County. Reba and Pake got the big breaks! (We didn't even compare.)

Denver still enjoys jammin' and has learned to play the steel guitar recently.

### Family

Denver married his high school sweetheart, Martha, and they have raised two good children. Both Stephanie and Ross were excellent students in school. Both inherited an interest in farming/ranching and were active in FFA and livestock shows. Stephanie and her husband, Dusty, live on the "home place," and Stephanie is a nurse at a Nursing Center in McAlester. Ross is working as a draftsman for a pipeline company on a project in Texas.

Our little sister, Dawn Moon, and her family live in McAlester. Dawn is an RN



*At left, Denver Holloway does what he enjoys most - feeding CPN cattle in the Great Outdoors. Above, Holloway accepts a Pendleton blanket from CPN Chairman John 'Rocky' Barrett at a reception honoring Holloway's service to the Nation.*

and Nursing Supervisor at the McAlester Regional Hospital. Dawn and her husband, Tom, have five children.

L.D. (Uncle D) and Jean Hull (Aunt Jean) are retired and now live in Midwest City near their daughter, Connie. Uncle D is our mother's only sibling, and has been a wonderful support throughout our lives.

Peggy and Paul Lee were the "big kids" we looked up to when were small. Aunt Peggy would take us to see Grandma and Grandpa Holloway, and Paul grew up about a mile from our home place. Aunt Peggy is the family historian and researcher. I'm sure she is the one who made sure Denver and I were included on the Citizen Potawatomi rolls.

**Shop  
FireLake Discount Foods!!**

**FireLake Golf Course**

**Enjoy FireLake Golf Course's new  
Champion Bermuda Greens & water on 15 holes**

**Call 275-4471 for more information  
FireLake Golf in South Shawnee**



Deadline is January 29

## Student Artist Competition entries sought

Entries for the 2010 Native American Student Artist Competition (SAC) Bringing Honor Through Education are continuing to arrive! We at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education (OIE) want to remind everyone that students must register and their artwork and essays must be postmarked by Friday, January 29, 2010. In addition, we also wanted to provide you with a few tips for artists and writers entering the competition.

### Don't Forget to Register!

Students can register their entry online or call our toll-free number 1-866-259-0060. If you register online, you will receive an Application and Release form in your registration confirmation. If you register over the phone, we will send you an Application and Release form. Important! We must receive your artwork or essay with your signed Application and Release form. SAC Instructions

### Art Tips

- Working with oil-based paints: when painting with oil-based paints, you always want to start with the background and work your way forward. To get your foreground colors to pop, apply wet paint only

to previous layers of wet paint.

- Working with watercolor paints: to prevent your colors from bleeding into each other and making your painting look messy, use a hair dryer to dry each color.

For more art tips, visit the Artist Circle on the OIE kids' website.

### Writing Tips

- Don't expect a perfect essay when you start out. A great essay takes many drafts to write, not just one or two - it might take more like 10 to 12 drafts.

- Keep all of your drafts, doodles, ideas, brainstorm, or anything that helped you with your writing in one place. A folder or notebook works great.

- Plan on writing in chunks of time from 15 minutes to one hour per day.

- Give yourself time to think about what you want to say. Digest what you have written and come back to it the next day. Re-read what you wrote and decide whether revisions are warranted.

For more writing tips, visit the Artist Circle on the OIE kids' Website.

Questions about the SAC? Contact Rayanne Ganuelas at [rayanne.ganuelas@kauffmaninc.com](mailto:rayanne.ganuelas@kauffmaninc.com) or 866-259-0060.

## Member's dance troupe slates concert

"Of Art, Of Dance, Of Life" will be presented Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Studio A at County Dance Conservatory. Featured in the concert will be a post-modern work by Andrea Beckham to the musings of Ann Sexton and a modern piece from Lily Cabatu Weiss. Weiss is the Department Coordinator for Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts while Beckham is on dance faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. Michele Manley Hanlon's alternative look at fun set to Patsy Cline and Bob Wills as well as her post-modern solo to Edith Piaf help round out the diverse program.

All four of these modern works use costumes by Kirsty Buchanan, a professor of fashion design at Stephens College. Standards of the junior and senior performing companies such as the classical Spanish piece by Alicia Adame and a lyrical jazz dance to the voices of Patti Labelle and Gladys Knight will further enhance the show. J. Davis Hobdy will premiere a modern work set to Jacques Brel and Heidi Menocal will create a new ballet for the junior company. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door and may be purchased beginning January 11, 2010. Seating is limited.

Originally founded as South Anne Arundel County Dance Conservatory in September 20032 by J. Davis Hobdy, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member, the goal of County Dance Conservatory is to provide quality, professional dance instruction for all ages. Specializing in jazz, modern, and tap, the school also provides a strong foundation in ballet technique.

Hobdy says, "Our goal for the recreational dancer is for him or her to gain self-confidence through the physical and mental accomplishments that come from positive dance instruction. The staff supplies the more serious student with the knowledge and training necessary to prepare for a career in dance."

The school now offers a foundation in tumbling for students from which they may vault to more competitive teams.

"Our performing companies have received Third Prize Dance Costume and Dancing Hand Award at New Prague Dance Festival (NPDP 2009), a Prize for Theatre Broadway at NPDP 2008, Dancing Hand and Personal Award of Five



*Photo by Roman Sekjot and courtesy the New Prague Dance Festival - Davis Hobdy's dance troupe performs a dance by Andrea Beckham entitled Shadowplay. The photo was shot at the dance competition in Prague, Czech Republic.*

Years at NPDP 2007, Third Prize Dance Theatre at NPDP 2006, Second Prize Dance Theatre at NPDP 2005, and the Organizer's Prize at NPDP 2004 in Prague, Czech Republic," Hobdy added.

Locally, the companies have performed at Deale Beach Day, Marlborough Day, South County Relay for Life, Good Deale Blue Grass Shoppe's Chili Cook-off, and BooGrass Festival, Marlborough Day, and the Anne Arundel County Fair.

PIECES was organized in April 1992 by J. Davis Hobdy and Ken Armstrong to serve as a performance outlet for Dallas and North Texas area dancers and choreographers. Since that time, PIECES has performed in showcases and festivals in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. PIECES has provided performances through the Neighborhood touring Program of the Office of Cultural Affairs, of the City of Dallas, and has danced in many industrial shows.

In August 1998, PIECES had the distinct honor of being the only Performance Arts Organization from Texas to appear at the Cultural Exchange Venue for Gay Games V in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. That same year, PIECES was honored by the Creative Arts Department at the State Fair of Texas for Special Merit.

PIECES received an award of Special Mention of the Director Theatre Khinovna for the performance of Lily Cabatu Weiss' undercurrent at Prague Dance Festival 2001 in Mlada Boleslav and Prague, Czech Republic. In March 2007, PIECES was guest artist at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

## Thank You Letters

CPN RV Campground  
1899 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK 74801

Last week (mid-November 2009), 15 RVs of the Frontier Sams Chapter (Oklahoma City area) spent four days at your very fine RV campground and had the use of your excellent North Reunion Hall. Your facilities are outstanding and contributed immensely to a very enjoyable campout.

We want to especially thank Pam Smith and Kay Ragan in Administration for their friendly help and guidance in making arrangements for our stay. They were great to work with.

Norm Parkhurst  
President, Frontier Sams Chapter  
Good Sam RV Club



To Whom it may Concern,

I would like to thank Tribal Rolls and the Potawatomi Nation again for helping to fund my college education. I could not afford it without your help and can never thank you enough.

Sincerely,  
Lauren McKown  
East Lansing, Michigan

To Whom it may Concern,

Thank you for continuing to award me a scholarship from your program. I can't tell you how much these scholarships have meant to me. I was worried that I would not be able to pay for pharmacy school or might have to take out expensive loans. But, with this program and the people who have awarded me the scholarships, I am on my way to becoming a pharmacist. I am so grateful to be able to have this opportunity that was made possible by you. Thank you.

Caroline Burnett  
SWOSU/College of Pharmacy  
Weatherford, Oklahoma



# CPN Cultural Heritage Center & FireLake Giftshop

Bozho,

The Holiday Season is in full swing! Firelake Gifts has its new season Pendleton items stocked up and ready for holiday shoppers!

This holiday season the CHC was a drop point for the Toys for Tots campaign as well as a collection point for Coats for Kids. New, unwrapped toys and gently used coats were donated to make this season more enjoyable for a large number of youngsters.

By the time this goes to print, the CHC and FireLake Gifts will have hosted a trunk show/estate sale for a large Navajo estate. The estate had more than 7,000 pieces of rugs, jewelry, and pottery, and Firelake Gifts offered to host the sale in the CHC's Longroom. The sale was three days, December 3-5. It was a truly unique opportunity, and we look forward to hosting more events like this in the future.

The Visitor's Area of the CHC looks great! We have new seating, visitor's info, and two custom-built miniature dioramas that depict pre-contact Potawatomi life and scenes from George Winter paintings, depicting Potawatomi life in the 1830s.

The CHC Facebook page is still growing in popularity! Become "a fan" of the CHC on Facebook to stay updated on events, exhibits, and other things going on at the CHC. We have contests and trivia challenges, and the prizes are fantastic (a special thanks to FireLake Gifts). To become a fan, search Facebook for "Citizen Potawatomi." The CHC



should be the first link to pop up. Click "become a fan." It's as simple as that! You will receive an update each time a post is made by the staff of the CHC.

Remember to check out the CHC Tribal Heritage Project's YouTube site. You can find us on YouTube at the link below (if you've got a YouTube account you can "subscribe" to the CHC-THP page for updates): [www.youtube.com/user/cpntrib-alheritage](http://www.youtube.com/user/cpntrib-alheritage)

The CHC is first and foremost here to protect and preserve tribal history and stories. If you have any stories to share, on- or off-camera, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Our Tribal Heritage Department is always ready to interview tribal members and our Archives Department is ready to document your family history.

From the CHC to you & yours: Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

Megwetch,  
Karen Phillips

Executive Director  
CPN Cultural Heritage Center

The CHC is located at:  
1899 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.  
Shawnee, OK  
(405)275-3119

## CHC Hours of operation:

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed

*This is a Winter scene from one of the Cultural Heritage Center's new dioramas.*





# CPN Housing Authority

## One-Time Grant Program

Here, in December 2009, the CPN Housing Authority has reached a 10-year milestone with its One Time Grant Program. This program has assisted many Citizen Potawatomi tribal members with funds to assist with down payments and/or closing costs associated with the purchase, construction, or refinancing of a home.

In addition to continuing to assist individual tribal members through this program, we would also like to see the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's First National Bank (FNB) benefit by originating the mortgage loans. FNB is able to offer most loan programs that are available at other lending institutions, except for those loan types that are affiliated with predatory lenders.

It is interesting to know that there are still many CPN members who do not know about this program and the mortgage loans available to them through their bank. On an almost daily basis, our office receives calls from tribal members who have never known about this grant or that the tribe owns its own bank.

All Citizen Potawatomi members are eligible for this grant one time in their lives – and one time only. The maximum amount is \$2,125.00. It is a grant, and it does not have to be repaid.

The criteria for the program are: the grant cannot be used for any type of mobile home; convicted felons or other household-member felons are ineligible; the home being purchased must be the CPN member's primary residence; and the tribal member's name must be on the loan.

The application must be totally complete and the following submitted:

- Copy of borrower's CPN membership card
- Copy of the "Good Faith Estimate" from lender
- Income verification for all household members (the last three-to-four pay stubs or if with the same employer for several years the last two years of tax returns)
- Name of the Closing Entity (Title Co., Escrow Co., Attorney, etc.)

The application and support information must be in the CPN Housing Authority office at least three weeks prior to the closing date. This gives our office enough time to get the paperwork processed and the check mailed back to the tribal member by

the specified date.

To request the application and/or general information regarding the One Time Grant, please contact Sherry Byers, Homeownership Manager, at 405-273-2833 or at [sbyers@potawatomi.org](mailto:sbyers@potawatomi.org).

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at First National Bank & Trust, please contact Spence Kidney, Mortgage Loan Officer, at 405-275-8830 or 800-227-8362.

## Federal Homeowner Tax Credits

New legislation - the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 - was signed into law on November 6, 2009. It extends and expands the first-time home-buyer credit allowed by previous Acts.

The new law:

- Extends deadlines for purchasing and closing on a home.
- Authorizes the credit for long-time homeowners buying a replacement principal residence.
- Raises the income limitations for homeowners who claim the credit.

Under the new law, an eligible taxpayer must buy, or enter into a binding contract to buy, a principal residence on or before April 30, 2010 and close on the home by June 30, 2010. For qualifying purchases in 2010, taxpayers have the option of claiming the credit on either their 2009 or 2010 federal income tax return.

For the first time, long-time homeowners who buy a replacement principal residence may also claim a home-buyer credit of up to \$6,500 (up to \$3,250 for a married individual filing separately). They must have lived in the same principal residence for any five-consecutive-year period during the eight-year period that ended on the date the replacement home is purchased.

People with higher incomes can now qualify for the credit. The new law raises the income limits for homes purchased after Nov. 6, 2009. The credit phases out for individual taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) between \$125,000 and \$145,000 or between \$225,000 and \$245,000 for joint filers. The existing MAGI phase-outs of \$75,000 to \$95,000 or \$150,000 to \$170,000 for joint

filers still apply to purchases on or before Nov. 6, 2009.

Several new restrictions apply to homes purchased after Nov. 6, 2009.

- Purchasers must attach a properly executed settlement statement to their return.
- No credit is available if the purchase price of the home exceeds \$800,000.
- The purchaser must be at least 18 years old on the date of purchase. For a married couple, only one spouse must meet this age requirement.

- A dependent is not eligible for the credit.

- The new law gives the IRS broader authority to deny first-time home-buyer credit claims, without having to first audit a taxpayer's return. Known as math error authority, this authority applies, retroactively, to credits claimed on original and amended 2008 returns, as well as to claims yet to be filed.

Additionally, there are new benefits for members of the military and certain other federal employees:

- Members of the uniformed services, members of the Foreign Service and employees of the intelligence community serving outside the U.S. have an extra year

to buy a principal residence in the U.S. and qualify for the credit.

- In many cases, the credit repayment (recapture) requirement is waived for members of the uniformed services, members of the Foreign Service and employees of the intelligence community.

More information on these new benefits for the military, Foreign Service and intelligence community serving outside the U.S. is available.

## General Information

Home-buyers who purchased a home in 2008, 2009 or 2010 may be able to take advantage of the first-time home-buyer credit. The credit:

- Applies only to homes used as a taxpayer's principal residence.
- Reduces a taxpayer's tax bill or increases his or her refund, dollar for dollar.
- Is fully refundable, meaning the credit will be paid out to eligible taxpayers, even if they owe no tax or the credit is more than the tax owed.

The credit is claimed using Form 5405, which you file with your original or amended tax return.



*To schedule the CPN Veterans Organization Color Guard, contact Herbert Holton at 405-598-2530 or e-mail him at [herb39h@valornet.com](mailto:herb39h@valornet.com). To schedule the CPN Veterans Organization Honor Guard, contact Michael Abel at 405-694-9503 or [LeadSingerOne@Yahoo.com](mailto:LeadSingerOne@Yahoo.com)*



### For 2008 Home Purchases

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 established a tax credit for first-time home-buyers that can be worth up to \$7,500. For homes purchased in 2008, the credit is similar to a no-interest loan and must be repaid in 15 equal, annual installments beginning with the 2010 income tax year.

### For 2009 Home Purchases

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 expanded the first-time home-buyer credit by increasing the credit amount to \$8,000 for purchases made in 2009 before Dec. 1. However, the new Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 has extended the deadline. Now, taxpayers who have a binding contract to purchase a home before May 1, 2010, are eligible for

the credit. Buyers must close on the home before July 1, 2010. [Added Nov. 12, 2009]

For home purchased in 2009, the credit does not have to be paid back unless the home ceases to be the taxpayer's main residence within a three-year period following the purchase.

First-time home-buyers who purchase a home in 2009 can claim the credit on either a 2008 tax return, due April 15, 2009, or a 2009 tax return, due April 15, 2010. The credit may not be claimed before the closing date. But, if the closing occurs after April 15, 2009, a taxpayer can still claim it on a 2008 tax return by requesting an extension of time to file or by filing an amended return. News release 2009-27 has more information on these options.

Visit [www.FireLakeGrand.com](http://www.FireLakeGrand.com)  
for the latest information  
About FireLake Grand Casino



Shiree Randell was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

**Our mother, Shiree,** was a wonderful mother and one of the most amazing women we have ever met. She raised three daughters, by herself, while she ran the family store. After we graduated she went back to college and earned a Bachelors in Psychology, she always loved helping people. Once she had grandchildren they became her passion. One morning, she collapsed, we found her unconscious, in her home. We waited and prayed for three days, when we got the unexpected news that she was brain dead. That's when LifeShare stepped in and told us that it was time for her to help someone else by being an organ donor. We had absolutely no idea what miracles our mother could perform even after she wasn't with us

anymore. Thank you, LifeShare, for helping us through a difficult time, and for showing us how much one life could help not one, but three others.

Organ, eye and tissue donation saves lives. Please make your decision to donate life, and then tell your family!

Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor on your Oklahoma driver's license or state ID card, or register online at [www.lifeshareregistry.org](http://www.lifeshareregistry.org). If you don't have a license, or state ID card, and do not have internet access, call 800-826-LIFE (5433), and ask for a donor registration card.

@GOOD for life.

## Kingsburg wins California championship

A dream season for two Citizen Potawatomi Nation athletes ended on very different notes in November and December 2009. For Kingsburg, California High quarterback Tyler Bray and his cousin, tight end Benton Bray, there was the elation of a perfect (13-0) season and a California section championship. For Bray, it was the perfect ending to a Vikings varsity career that saw him finish with a 33-4 record as a starter, as well as setting school records in career passing yards and career passing touchdowns.

Meanwhile, Sophomore lineman David Gardner and his Shawnee, Oklahoma High Wolves teammates saw dreams of a perfect season and a state championship crash to earth in a 28 to 21 loss to the Bixby Spartans, who then lost to Carl Albert of Midwest City in Oklahoma's Class 5A state championship game. Included in Shawnee's 10-0 regular season was a victory over Carl Albert. Carl Albert lost just one other game during the season. Overall, the Wolves finished 11-1.

Bray and his KHS Vikings completed their championship season with a runaway win over a 10-3 Taft team. The final score: 47-16. Bray tossed five TD passes and ran for a sixth score.

Fresno Bee sportswriter Marek Warszawski described the championship game in this manner: "It was billed as a section championship game. However, by the time Kingsburg High and quarterback Tyler Bray were through, it felt more like a coronation. Scoring touchdowns on their first five possessions, the Vikings rolled to their first Central Section title since 1977 and capped an undefeated season by squashing Taft 47-16 on Friday night (December 11) in the Division IV final.

"Nearly 4,000 fans on the home side watched with delight as Bray passed for 256 yards and accounted for six touchdowns before heading to the bench after three quarters. Five came through the air, and the last came on a 4-yard run complete with a takeoff and helicopter landing in the end zone a la (Denver Broncos Hall of Fame QB) John Elway."

Bray set the tone on Kingsburg's first possession. On third-and-10, the 6-foot-6, 200-pounder avoided a sack, stepped up in the pocket, and completed a 21-yard pass down the middle to Christopher Thiesen. "That play kind of set the momentum," said Bray, a senior who graduated from



Kingsburg High early and joined the University of Tennessee Volunteers a few days following the section championship game. "When we overcame that ... we knew we were going to roll."

Bray actually participated in five Volunteers practices before their Dec. 31 game with Virginia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. NCAA rules prohibited Bray's traveling to the bowl game with the Vols or playing in the game. In the lead-up to the Taft encounter, Bray said, "I'll go from playing a high school game on Friday to strapping it up in college on Wednesday."

While Bray will miss his high school senior season in both basketball and baseball, he does not regret his decision to enroll early in Knoxville to try to win the Volunteers starting quarterback job for the 2010 season. "College is the next level and the speed of the game is different because everyone is the fastest guy on the team," Bray said. "It is going to be a little different than playing in high school, but I take it all in stride and try not to stress about it too much."

### BRAY'S LEGACY

**2007 (9-2 RECORD):** 1,726 yards, 18 TDs, 6 INTs

**2008 (11-2 RECORD):** 2,411 yards, 26 TDs, 10 INTs

**2009 (13-0 RECORD):** 3,268 yards, 41 TDs, 11 INTs

**CAREER (33-4 RECORD):** 7,405 yards\*, 85 TDs, 27 INTs

\*Bray's 7,405 passing yards ranks second in section history behind Tulare's Emmanuel Lewis' 8,667 yards from 2003-05. The state record is 11,022 yards by Valencia's Michael Herrick (2003-05).



## CPN Artist of the Month - Sharon Catlege

SHARON CATLEGE is a multi-media artist who recently turned to gourds as her canvas. Sharon was born in rural Oklahoma of French and Potawatomi Indian descent. Her Potawatomi name is "Jejakwe" meaning "Crane Woman."

The crane, called the "thunderer," rarely made noise; however, when it did, its sound was unmistakable and everyone took notice. Sharon, Crane Woman, has chosen to make her 'sound' through art as a way to honor the gourd and to honor the ancient wisdom and cultures of the ancestors.

She is fascinated by the individual characteristics of each gourd. "I love working with gourds because each has its own personality. Gourds are much like humans. The Great Spirit gives each of us a personality at birth, and through our experiences, we become a unique person. In the same manner I spend time in the energy field of each gourd's personality and give my energy to create a unique work of art. The drawings on my gourds are my interpreta-



*CPN Artist of the Month Sharon Catlege displays her gourd art, which is available at FireLake Gifts in the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.*

tions of symbols and events important in the lives of our ancestors and their connection to our Earth Mother."

You can contact Sharon at [scatlege@gmail.com](mailto:scatlege@gmail.com) or at 940-594-5826.

### About Gourds

Gourds are a dried fruit related to pumpkins. They are the precursor to pottery by thousands of years. Our ancestors used gourds to hold water, food, seeds, and medicine and as musical instruments. Evidence of domesticated bottle gourds in

the Americas date back more than 10,000 years. Decorated gourds were used in ceremonies and played an important part in myths including creation myths.



*This example of Sharon Catlege's gourd art is named "Shaman."*

## Frapp Family Reunion 2010

At the 2010 CPN Family Reunion Festival, the Frapp Family will be one the honored families.

Attempting to gather a large turnout of Frapp family members, George Adamietz, a member of the Frapp family, has created an e-mail account for people to ask questions and to help them make arrangements to attend Festival 2010.

The e-mail address is [FrappFamilyReunion2010@gmail.com](mailto:FrappFamilyReunion2010@gmail.com).

Please feel free to ask any questions about the Festival or the Frapp family. Thank you so much.

## The Senior Citizen Network

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has begun a program funded by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans. This program will assess the needs of the elder members of the Nation. The focus of this program is to identify tribal elders who need assistance to maintain an adequate standard of living, whether that is in the home, in an assisted-living facility, or in a nursing home.

The program is looking for tribal members to volunteer to spend time with our elders. We feel the elders are an invaluable source of wisdom and deserve respect and care. The CPN is asking members of the nation to assist in identifying elder tribal members who need assistance.

One of the program's first goals is to identify tribal elders who reside in nursing homes. Program officials ask that, if you are an elder living in a nursing home or know of an elder who lives in a nursing home or assisted living center, that you contact Thelma Campbell, RN at 405-273-5236 ext. 269.

## Citizen Potawatomi Nation

### Women, Infants, Children (WIC) Nutrition Program

The WIC program provides nutritious supplemental foods to program participants using vouchers. The WIC program serves as an adjunct to good health care during critical stages of a child's growth and development.

For more information, contact the Specialist in your area: Director Shelley Schneider; Shawnee Area, Tammy Wood, 405-273-3216; South Oklahoma City Area, Angie Igo, 405-632-4143; North OkC, Shalan Pearson, 405-232-3173; Prague, McLoud, and Perkins, Sarah Dailey, 800-880-9880.

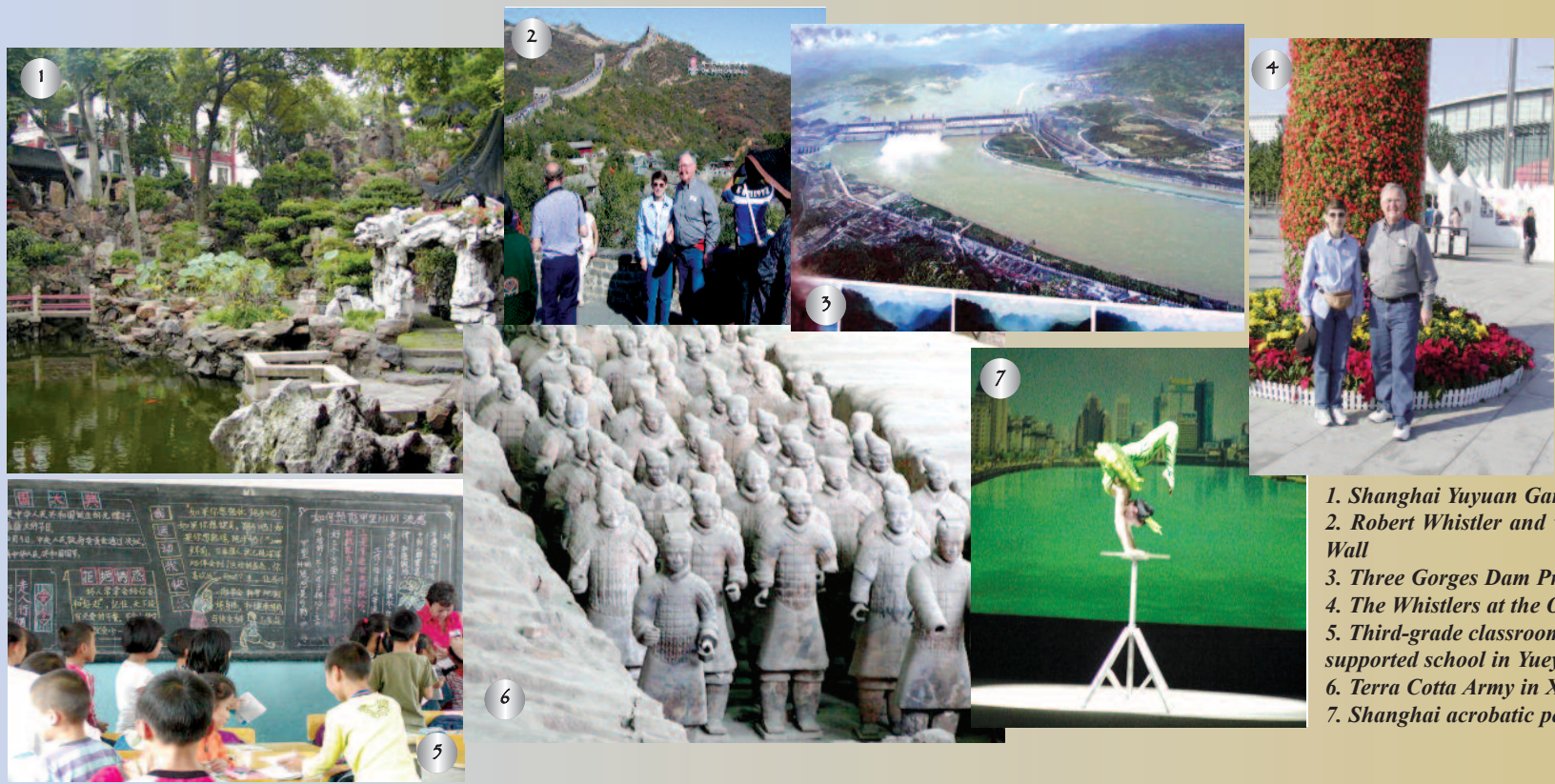


## Dist. #1 Rep. Roy Slavin at Chief Little Bear Day at Neodesha, Kansas



1. The CPN Veterans Organization color guard honors the flag.
2. The Delta Drum provided a steady beat for the festivities.
3. Bucky Buck enjoyed the dancing.
4. Jacob VanVacter
5. Jon Boursaw addressed the audience.
6. Kirsten VanVacter was just 11 days old when she attended.

## Dist. #3 Rep. Robert Whistler Tours China



1. Shanghai Yuyuan Garden
2. Robert Whistler and wife Linda on the Great Wall
3. Three Gorges Dam Project
4. The Whistlers at the Olympic Park in Beijing
5. Third-grade classroom at Viking River Cruise-supported school in Yueyang, China
6. Terra Cotta Army in Xian, China
7. Shanghai acrobatic performance



## District #1 - Roy Slavin

Bozho Nikan,

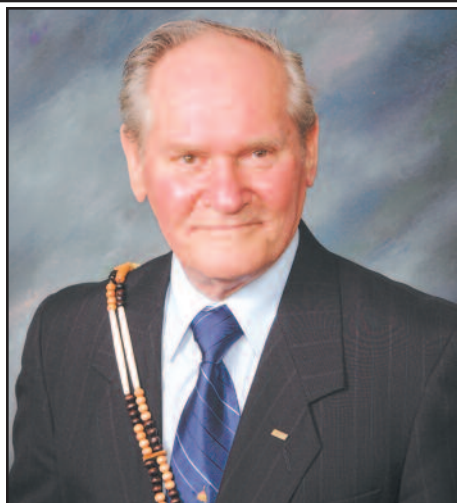
Fall has arrived here in the Midwest, and what a beautiful time of year it is. Mother Nature is a great artist.

Along with fall here in Kansas City, comes the "American Royal." For those of you not familiar with the Royal, it is a great event where people from all parts of the country bring their prize animals to be judged, along with many other events including a rodeo. The rodeo is what I want to talk about now.

One of our young CPN members, Kourtney Foley/*Wesikwe*, entered the junior barrel-racing event. Kourtney is a junior at Perry-Lecompton High School in Lecompton, Kansas. She and her horse, "Hitalik," pronounced "hit a lick," won the event with a time of 14.4 seconds. I was honored to name Kourtney, her mother Jackie Foley, and her sister Kayla at Rossville. I named Kourtney "*Wasikwe* (Animal Woman)" because of a great love of animals, especially her horses.

The deadline for applying for scholarships has passed but there are many other services available to our membership. To learn more about this, go to [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org) and click on "Services." You will find the employees and managers of these departments knowledgeable, friendly, and willing to work on your behalf. The department I am most familiar with is the mail-order pharmacy. I can tell you without reservation that these folks are outstanding.

My wife Julia and I have just returned from Washington, D.C., where we enjoyed the hospitality of District #2 representative Eva Marie Carney and her husband Allen.



We attended the "Family Weekend from Deer to Dance" at the National Museum of the American Indian at Eva's invitation.

I won't try to describe this beautiful museum; I will just say if you ever have a chance to visit, do so, you won't be disappointed. In addition to the exhibits on the upper three floors, there were dance demonstrations in the atrium and a very interesting demonstration by Jeffrey Coleclough that took you through all the steps from harvesting a deer to the point where the hide is ready to make clothing. The demonstration drew a large crowd, and Mr. Coleclough's running commentary kept us entertained.

I will close as I do all my articles, with a plea for your contact information. If you have not been getting e-mail or regular mail from me, it's because I don't have your address. Please send contact information to [rjslavin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjslavin@sbcglobal.net) or [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org) or to Roy Slavin, 6730 Tower Dr., Kansas City, MO. 64151.



Kourtney Foley

## District #2 - Eva Marie Carney

Bozho/Hello,

I am looking forward to 2010, and I hope you are as well. By the time this arrives in paper format in your homes, I will have returned from touring China with our daughter Elise. I studied Mandarin and East Asian History and Culture in college, but never made it to China. Someone recently said to me, "You had to have a child to get to China," and, that's true.

Just as we open up worlds to our children, our children open up worlds to us. I hope you'll indulge my writing in my next column about some of our travel stories; I will be collecting them with this column in mind!

We'll also have had several District #2 get-togethers by the time you read this in print. Both have involved visits to the Smithsonian Native American museum, which is a great resource for us here. I do feel badly that the events have been Washington, D.C.-focused, when many of you can't travel so far. If you have ideas for an event we can organize for your area that can accommodate other Potawatomis too, please let me know.

In November, about 70 of us met and enjoyed the demonstrations and hands-on activities during NMAI's Fall Family weekend, had a delicious lunch together at the Mitsitam Café, and then were treated to a tour of the Museum. A number of examples of Potawatomi beadwork were pointed out to us, and we enjoyed these and the many other wonderful items, displays, and ideas that were shared with us.

I've put photos up on my Facebook page if you're on Facebook and would like to take a look. Some of the folks who attended had never been to a get-together



with other Potawatomis; others have attended most of our District's events to date.

It was great to see everyone, and it's been great fun to build our community here. In December, a much smaller group of us met up to attend the Art Market at the Museum, which always presents a great opportunity to visit with the artists.

Plans are underway for a focused tour in the Smithsonian archives in Suitland, Maryland. It is scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2010 at 2 p.m. just ahead of the three-day Presidents' Day weekend. We will be shown a number of the Potawatomi art objects and artifacts in the NMAI's collection. Very little of it can be put on display in the Museum.

I have also gotten permission to post on my Website photos of the objects that we will examine on our tour, so those who can't attend will have the opportunity for a virtual tour of sorts. I'll get the paperwork done in time so everything is up on the Website by the February 12th tour.

I've asked Blake Norton, the CPN Cultural Heritage Center archivist, to help with the selection of objects, and he has graciously agreed to do so. Additionally, he might join us for the archives visit. Only 25 of us can be accommodated for the archives visit, but if there is significant interest I'm certain we can arrange a second visit. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us on February 12th.

One of our District #2 citizens, Suzanne Thomasson Pipkin, has created a Facebook page to communicate with and honor Citizen Potawatomis who are serving in



Jeffrey Coleclough



the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Citizen Potawatomi Warriors Eric Cryer and Tim Pyeatt presently have family members posting to them via the site, and it would be great to welcome others and to increase traffic to the page so that those who are fighting know that we appreciate and honor them.

You certainly don't have to be in District #2 to become a member. So please join us on the Facebook page Warriors of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

On another topic, do you know that Congress took significant action in June of this year to recognize Indians? On June 26, 2009, the U.S. Congress formally resolved to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving each year "Native American Heritage Day." A copy of the Public Law can be found by Googling "Native American Heritage Day 2009."

As your legislator, the part of the resolution I am most fond of states: "[D]esignation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments."

The last part of the resolution also is notable: "Congress encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to honor Native Americans, with activities relating to: (1) appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to observe Native American

*Heritage Day; (2) the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present-day status of Native Americans; (3) the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and (4) the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today."*

Please take a look at the entire resolution; it is short. If you need me to send you a copy by mail, I would be pleased to do that.

Finally, please write to me by e-mail or regular mail and let me know you are out there and reading this column. And if you have family members who have not reached out to me yet, please ask them to do so. The more folks I hear from the better the sense I have of where everyone is located in our very large District and of the best locations for future District #2 events. Plus, it is great to meet everyone and to help out those of you who are looking for information or assistance of one sort or another.

I wish you joy, peace, good health, and prosperity in the New Year, and thank you for the privilege of serving as your Legislator.

Eva Marie Carney/Ojindiskwe

Legislator, District #2

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

701 8th Street NW, Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

ECarney@Potawatomi.org

1.202.347.4424 (Local)

1.866.961.6988 (Toll Free)

Website: [www.evamariecarney.com](http://www.evamariecarney.com).



Some of the 70-plus Potawatomis who gathered for the District #2 event at the National Museum of the American Indian

## District #3 ~ Robert Whistler

Bozho, Nikan (Hello, Friends):

In the last few days of September and first two weeks of October, I had the pleasure of visiting a number of cities in China. The cities included Shanghai, Wuhan, Xiling Gorge, Shibaozhai, Xian, and Beijing. These areas allowed us to see the Three Gorges, Terra Cotta army, The Great Wall, Beijing Olympic site, The Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square. We also had

the opportunity to ride the Bullet train back from Beijing to Shanghai.

I found that the Chinese and we have some similarities. Please keep in mind I am not a scholar, nor educator in the field of culture, language, or heritage. My comments are simply based upon what I saw in concert with my readings and experiences. Some errors may be included; if so, for that let me apologize in advance.

We - the Americas' indigenous peoples - started some of our transition in the 16th century. It slowly progressed. Then, in the 19th and 20th centuries, like the Chinese, we went through major changes. Both of us were involved in wars, civil unrest, and significant shifts in our economic situations.

In Texas, there are three federally recognized tribes. In Oklahoma, there are some 39. Within the U.S., there have been more than 550 different tribes or ethnic groups. At the time Columbus visited America, there were an estimated 200,000 indigenous peoples in the northeastern part of what is now the United States.

Depending upon what is being read, the Potawatomis are referred to as one of the Great Lakes or Woodlands tribes. Going back many, many, centuries, we are part of the Algonquian group who initially inhabited the northeastern part of North America, including sections of present-day Canada in that area. Our language is derived from the Algonquian language group. Because of differences in the individual culture, dress, and lifestyle, each tribe becomes a separate ethnic group.

Within the Potawatomi grouping, there are nine individual nations or ethnic groups with some differences in language and possibly heritage and/or individual tribal culture.

In China, there are currently 56 different ethnic groups. Tiananmen Square has columns that reminded me of our Pacific Northwest and Alaskan tribal totem poles. Each column recognizes one of the ethnic groups in China. There are the Mongols, Hezhen, Jino, Han, and Tibetans along with many others. Separate from the columns, I have a presentation showing all 56 ethnic groups. For those of you wishing to see pictures of each group, which clearly shows the differences in dress and some appearances, send me an e-mail. I will forward the presentation to you.

Like us, the Chinese are focused on cultural harmony. Let me first go over some of our culture that involves the four directions, in association with color and other meanings.

We look to the north, and it is designated by the color white. It stands for generosity and both water and sweet grass are associated with this direction.

When we move to the east, the color we use is yellow, and we associate this direction with wisdom along with tobacco used in prayer and ceremony.



The color red is designated for the south, and we associate cedar, compassion, and woman with this direction.

Black is the color given the west. Sage and courage are associated with this direction. Sage is used to drive away fear.

The Chinese, too, have four harmonic areas in their culture. While these do not specifically relate to the four points of direction, there are four cultural elements in their heritage. The four items are water, plants, rocks, and buildings.

To the Chinese, water represents energy. Plants are their reminder of life. Rocks are associated with wealth. Buildings represent people.

The Yuyuan Garden in Old Shanghai, dating to the Ming Dynasty, has all of these elements over and over. If you are ever in that area, it is well worth seeing. I suggest you have a guide to explain all of the meanings of the various elements as you go through this beautiful facility. Even the shape of a door has specific meaning and possible taboos.

Bama Pi (Later),

Bob Whistler/Bmashi

District #3 Representative

112 Bedford Road, Suite 116

Bedford, TX 76022



This is China's Three Gorges Dam Project. You can see more photos from Rep. Whistler's China trip on page 13.



## District #4 - Theresa Adame

Dear Friends,

I am sitting here in my new office on a Saturday morning thinking of what to write. This was a very special Thanksgiving at our house. It started in the same way as last year, by helping with the community Thanksgiving dinner. It is amazing how the volunteers make the dinner for so many run so smoothly.

But, my Thanksgiving ended in a very special way. I named the last of my siblings, niece, nephews, and daughter, telling them we are now ready for the next generation. I suggested to them that it is now their responsibility to pass this tradition on to their future families.

I was also fortunate enough to do another naming recently. A man whom I named about a year ago has taken on that very challenge and is passing on the tradition to his family. We did the naming ceremony together a couple weeks ago. His sister made the request for a name from him, and I participated by doing the ceremony. It has been my privilege to get this tradition started in the Melot family.

I am trying something new this holiday season. I have adopted a family for the past few years through our local Christmas Bureau. I will continue to do that, but I thought I might expand on that. I sent out an e-mail to those on my Fourth District e-mail list to see if there are any elders or military personnel serving away from home this year who might enjoy a card or gift. I am hoping other CPN citizens might join with me and brighten the holiday season for them. Because this is the first time I have attempted this, I am not sure what response I will get. I hope I need to buy lots of cards and stamps.

While I am on the subject of communication, I will give you a little information. Many of you might wonder why you are not receiving e-mail updates when you have given the Nation or me your address. I get a few back because of your spam blockers; your e-mail service provider doesn't recognize my address. If you see an



e-mail in your spam folder titled CPN, update because that is probably from me. If you want to be added to my notification list, just send me an e-mail. I also receive some back as non-deliverable, and I am sure I could not read the writing and typed in the wrong letter or number on some of these e-mail addresses.

I am hoping to have a display of original glass-plate photo templates set up in my office soon. I have never seen one, but have a person who has agreed to bring part of his collection to show. I have never viewed his collection but they are all originals from the 1800s. They show various tribes, and I am looking forward to this event. A date has not been set because part of the collection is on loan out-of-state. I will send an e-mail notice when the plans are complete.

I am still teaching ribbonwork and shawl-tying to those who are interested; I send e-mail notices of class dates.

I do not have set office hours but I am happy to meet with anyone at a mutually-agreed time.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New year.

Theresa Adame  
2007 S W Gage  
Topeka, KS 66604  
TAdame@Potawatomi.org

## District #5 - Gene Lambert

Greetings and Happy Holidays to everyone,

I cannot believe that yet another year has come and gone. Gratitude would be the first level of emotion for 2009 when look-

ing back over the last year. I have been so fortunate to have had many opportunities to serve our people during this last legislative term.

It has been brought to my attention and

requested by many constituents in District #5 that I should register and run again. Consequently, please consider this a formal announcement of my intent to run again as a candidate for the Legislative District #5.

I thank you for the two years I have had to represent you. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving as the Legislative Representative for the next four-year term.

We have come so far in the first two years in organizing and opening offices, format of our legislative meetings, and territorial responsibility. It has been a wonderful but busy two years.

This last year has brought many changes and challenges to my life. Additionally, I acquired a puppy who grew up in that time, two teenagers who have brought life back into my home, and a tortoise named Nunu. Nunu will live for at least 100 years if we continue to take care



of him properly. One of my great-grandfathers lived to be 101, and that may be my legacy.

Please take the holidays and enjoy your friends and family. I will look forward to meeting and talking with you throughout the year.

Gene Lambert  
Legislator, District #5

## District #7 - Thom Finks

Bozho!

The holiday season is in full swing and I hope this column finds you and all of your relations safe and peaceful.

For the past couple of years, the entire country has had to deal with a sluggish economy and growing unemployment. It has affected almost all of us. Everyone has tightened their belts a little, and we find ourselves needing a little support and guidance.

We learn that the best support and understanding comes from family. Oh sure, sometime we disagree with them and sometimes fight like kids in an alley, but when it comes down to it, family is truly all-important. Take a moment to thank them and hold them close, you'll find it mutually comforting, knowing that you're not alone.

Please also remember the members of our Armed Forces in your prayers. These men and women stand guard to protect us, regardless of the hardships or peril, 24/7. May the Creator keep them safe, and may they return home soon.

During the last few weeks, there has been some e-mail discussion amongst legislators regarding dancing at the family heritage festival. Questions have arisen regarding dance circle etiquette. For instance, most of the shawls and sashes that the tribe made available to tribal mem-



bers were never returned to the tribe, and perhaps it was not clarified that they were on loan rather than to be taken home.

I would like to propose that, prior to the next festival, the folks who are interested or have questions contact their legislator or that we set up an office meeting where tribal members can get more information about the meaning of the dance circle and how we as a people prepare for it.

I'm sure many of you have seen both my brother and me turn out in full regalia for the dance circle to try our best to honor



our ancestors when dancing. Preparing regalia takes time and patience - time to learn the little things that traditionally were taught to young people as they grew up; patience to assemble the beads, feathers, hides, and various other things that make up dance regalia. However, the reward is so huge!

I started with a ribbon shirt, next my brother helped me with my leggings and aprons, then I made bandoliers, and so it continues. It took a number of years to get my regalia together, and now I make a habit of changing or renewing something every year.

Of course, you don't need to get that involved but as a warning, it's very addictive! You certainly shouldn't feel odd because you don't have any regalia to wear. Just remember not to wear flip-flops, funky shorts, or halter-tops. The time,

patience, and effort creating regalia are very rewarding, and I would like for all of you to create that experience for yourselves. If you need help, I am here for you.

Research and learn what you can, talk with elders, be respectful, and let the sound of the drum take you. You'll cherish it, I promise.

This will be my last column of 2009, and in January of 2010, the candidates for several legislative seats as well as the positions of Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer will file for office. I would like to make the formal announcement that I will file to run as the Legislator for District #7. I would like to get feedback from you, so please e-mail me at [TFinks@Potawatomi.org](mailto:TFinks@Potawatomi.org).

Thank you in advance for your trust and support.  
Thom Finks.....

## District #8 - Dave Carney

Bozho,

Fall and now Winter have been a busy time of year in District #8.

As the economy continues to worsen and the jobless numbers rise, more and more people are losing their health care benefits. In connection with this unfortunate trend, I continue to work on a running list of Indian Health Service clinics, which will treat our members in District #8. Tribal health care facilities receiving funds from Indian Health Services treat members of their tribe, but they are also obligated to treat "non-indigenous" Indians for direct care, meaning within the walls of the facility, as well.

As I contact them, I am determining a few things that might be useful when deciding to seek medical treatment there. These are types of services offered (general medicine, dental, diabetes clinic, behavioral health, etc.), how to make an appointment, and what to take with you to prove that you are eligible for services. Each facility is different, so please look at my Website ([www.dave-carney.com](http://www.dave-carney.com)) and pay special attention to the "instructions" line for details.

Returning to the issue of direct care - please note that if you are referred out of the facility or if there is lab work and the facility does not have its own lab, you might be billed directly. In every instance, you will need a CPN tribal ID card with photo. If you lost yours or have one of the



older ones without a picture, you can also download a form from my "His Clinic" page, attach a passport-quality photo, and mail it back to Shawnee to obtain a new one.

So far, I have information on five health facilities in Alaska, three in Idaho, five in Montana, one in Nebraska, eight in the Dakotas, nine in Oregon, 21 in Washington, and one in Wyoming. If you do not see a facility near you and you would like me to contact them, please feel free to connect with me. One CPN member from Washington State did just that, and the information I gathered is now on the Website for others to utilize.

We held a "Fall Feast" on the second Sunday in November at the district office in Olympia to share food brought by members as well as roasted turkey and baked ham. I was able to purchase some Native American-grown-and-harvested wild rice from the Great Lakes area.

CPN member Lindsay Jones Marean, an Oregon-based linguist, taught a beginning Potawatomi language class, and we watched The Trail of Death video and discussed it. Additionally, we talked about upcoming events such as a craft and genealogy workshop slated for January.

At the Open House event held on

September 9, I was able to make the acquaintance of John George on his 85th birthday. This actor, dancer, and entertainer extraordinaire has subsequently been the guest on CPN Public Information Director Michael Dodson's radio broadcast "The Native American Speaks." I encourage you to get on [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org) to listen to this fascinating interview with one of our District #8 elders.

If our paths do not meet before the upcoming holidays, I wish you a very blessed and family filled Christmas.

Megwetch,

Dave Carney/Kagashki

## District #9 - Paul Wesselhöft

Bozho, Nikan,

I just drove home from another Tribal Legislature session. My chest is busting with pride. We passed Resolution # 10-39-R&G, which enrolled 412 new members into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. This brings our Nation's membership total to 28,621! It will only be a short time before we can celebrate our membership exceeding 30,000. We are growing in numbers as well as services and national impact.

### CPN Scholarships

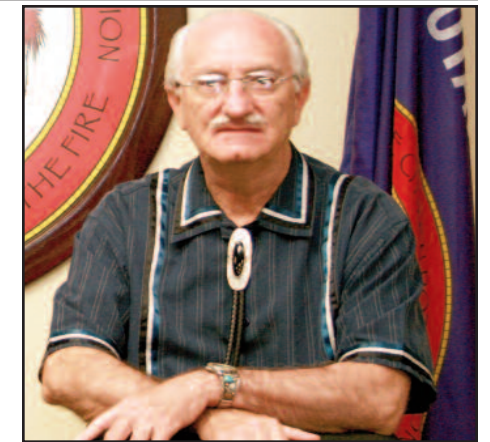
Another area that should bring great pride to us all is education. Each year we increase our college and Career Technology/Vocational school scholarships by about 100.

Between August and December of this year, we granted 1,161 scholarships out of 1,277 applications! One hundred-sixteen students did not complete their applications or their grades did not qualify them. Fifty-two scholarships went toward Career Technology or Vocational Schools, and 1,109 went toward colleges and universities.

The total amount of scholarship money we invested was \$1,529,299. This amount came to an average of \$1,197.57 per student!

### CPN'S Future

Our membership is growing; our scholarships are growing; our budget is growing (approximately \$280 million). Our state



and national reputation is growing. We are, indeed, a Nation on the rise!

We can all be proud of our great success. It is my hope that in the years to come our membership will reach 50,000 and our average scholarship will exceed \$5,000. I can think of no other budget item that is more important than educating CPN students and assisting them in obtaining their degrees. This, more than anything, will bring success and prosperity to our Nation.

I am proud of our success; and our future has never looked brighter. I am so pleased to be a participant in and a witness to our Nation's future. I thank you for your trust and support. I, like you, want to be a Nation-builder.

Megwetch,

Paul Wesselhöft

Shop FireLake Gifts  
in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
Cultural Heritage Center



## District #10 - David Barrett

Bozho,

The article I have included was written by Looks for Buffalo, who is an Oglala Sioux Spiritual Leader and the full-blood Oglala grandson of Chief Red Cloud and White Cow Killer. Looks for Buffalo is a Cheyenne Oglala Leader.

### *A Native Christmas*

*by Looks for Buffalo and Sandie Lee*

*European Christmas for Native Americans actually started when the Europeans came over to America. They taught the Indian about Christianity, gift-giving, and St. Nicholas. There are actually two religious types of Indian people in existence. One of these is the Traditionalist, usually full-blooded Indians that grew up on the reservations. The second type is the Contemporary Indian that grew up in an urban area, usually of mixed blood, and brought up with Christian philosophy.*

*Traditionalists are raised to respect the Christian Star and the birth of the first Indian Spiritual Leader. He was a Star Person and Avatar. His name was Jesus. He was a Hebrew, a Red Man. He received his education from the wilderness. John the Baptist, Moses, and other excellent teachers that came before Jesus provided an educational foundation with the Holistic Method.*

*Everyday is our Christmas. Every meal is our Christmas. At every meal, we take a little portion of the food we are eating, and we offer it to the spirit world on behalf of the four legged, and the winged, and the two-legged. We pray - not the way most Christians pray - but we thank the Grandfathers, the Spirit, and the Guardian Angel.*

*The Indian Culture is actually grounded in the traditions of a Roving Angel. The life-ways of Roving Angels are actually the way Indian People live. They hold out their hands and help the sick and the needy. They feed and clothe the poor. We have high respect for the avatar because we believe that it is in giving that we receive.*

*We are taught as Traditional children that we have abundance. The Creator has given us everything: the water, the air we breathe, the earth as our flesh, and our energy force: our heart. We are thankful every day. We pray early in the morning, before sunrise, the morning star, and the*



*evening star. We pray for our relatives who are in the universe that someday they will come. We also pray that the Great Spirit's son will live again.*

*To the Indian People Christmas is everyday and they don't believe in taking without asking. Herbs are prayed over before being gathered by asking the plant for permission to take some cuttings. An offer of tobacco is made to the plant in gratitude. We do not pull the herb out by its roots, but cut the plant even with the surface of the earth, so that another generation will be born its place.*

*It is really important that these ways never be lost. And to this day, we feed the elders, we feed the family on Christmas day, we honor Saint Nicholas. We explain to the little children that to receive a gift is to enjoy it, and when the enjoyment is gone, they are pass it on to the another child, so that they, too, can enjoy it. If a child gets a doll, that doll will change hands about eight times in a year, from one child to another.*

*Everyday is Christmas in Indian Country. Daily living is centered around the spirit of giving and walking the Red Road. Walking the Red Road means making everything you do a spiritual act. If your neighbor, John Running Deer, needs a potato masher and you have one that you are not using, you offer him yours in the spirit of giving. It doesn't matter if it is Christmas or not.*

*If neighbors or strangers stop over to*

*visit at your house, we offer them dinner. We bring out the T-bone steak, not the cabbage. If we don't have enough, we send someone in the family out to get some more and mention nothing of the inconvenience to our guests. The more one gives, the more spiritual we become. The Christ Consciousness, the same spirit of giving that is present at Christmas, is present everyday in Indian Country.*

In many countries of the world, the celebration of Christmas occurs on December 25 and is a high point of the year. But why? Can it have any real meaning for us today? Is there a real Christmas message?

From Thanksgiving onward, it is impossible to forget that Christmas is nearing. Colored lights decorate many towns' centers and shops, "Christmas trees" are decorated with lights and ornaments.

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840. Traditionally, Christmas cards showed religious pictures - Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, and other parts of the Christmas story. Today, pictures are often jokes, winter pictures, Father Christmas, or romantic scenes of life in past times.

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name "Santa Claus," which comes from the Dutch "Sinterklaas." Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey) in the Fourth century A.D. He was very shy, and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it.

Santa Claus has become the human force of Christmas. Children are taught that he brings them presents the night before Christmas. Today in the West, not many people consider the religious meaning of Christmas. It has become a busy race to spend money on presents and get ready for the day itself. A visitor from another world would think that Christmas was a festival for the gods of money and

shopping.

What do we want from Christmas? Many people do hope for more than presents at Christmas. We want Christmas to be more than fun and decorations; there must somehow be a message, something more, some key to life, hope, and happiness.

Since about 400 A.D., Christians have celebrated the birth of Jesus. "Christ" means "Messiah" or "anointed one" - the title given to Jesus - and "Mass" was a religious festival.

Look at all the items we use to decorate for Christmas and the meaning behind each:

**Candy cane** - Shepherd's staff, red for the Blood Shed and white for His purity

**The Wreath** - He is everlasting; His Kingdom knows no beginning and no end

**The Lights** - Jesus, the light of the world

**The Star** - Marks the place where the Christ Child lay

**Christmas tree** - Symbolizes life; the tree was Christianized in the Fourth Century during the reign of Emperor Constantine. The pagan celebration of the Saturnalia was replaced with Christmas on December 25. ("Do not be overcome by evil, but Overcome evil with good." - Romans 12:21)

**Christmas colors** - Red is for Christ's blood shed for our sins; Green represents eternal life in Christ; White is for the purity of Christ; Gold represents the Kingship and Royalty of Christ

In conclusion, my wish to all is that we reflect on our past beliefs and develop strong core principles which will sustain us and our families in these days of economic stress, health issues, and family crises of loved ones overseas.

Megwetch,  
Oklahoma/District #10  
David Barrett/Mnedobe  
DBarrett@Potawatomi.org

## District #11 - Lisa Kraft

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2010,

I have been thinking a lot about Gene Lambert, our District #5 Legislator. She has been actively involved with the tribe longer than I can remember. I want to take just a few minutes to build upon her last article. I have come to know Gene as a very selfless person, and I admire her greatly in her Citizen Potawatomi foster

care advocacy. What Gene did not tell you in her last article is that she is also a foster care mother. She walks the walk and talks the talk.

My New Year's wish for 2010 is that every one of the 106 active Indian Child Welfare cases under the jurisdiction of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation leads to the adoption of a child, siblings, and a teen.



There are currently 30 cases working through our tribal court system at this very moment. Twenty-two of those cases are right here in Oklahoma. The rest of the children are in foster care throughout the U.S., with high numbers in California, Oregon, and Kansas.

Each of the 106 cases has children and siblings in need of adoption into permanent homes. They all need parents or a parent who will love and treasure them and simply allow them to become part of a permanent family. In the cases of the handful of children whose parents have terminated parental rights or relinquished their children, the tribe will always be grateful for the family members who have accepted responsibility for these young lives. The tribal court prefers to place children with family members to make the transition better for these children, siblings, and teens.

Did you know that our tribal government champions the rights of Citizen Potawatomi kids? Our Indian Child Welfare (ICW) program enables people like Director Janet Draper to fly anywhere in the United States and take legal custody of a Citizen Potawatomi child who has been abused and abandoned. Without parental rights to the child, the tribe steps in to advocate on behalf of the child - as it should be - certainly over the state.

The problems for the child then becomes having to endure the process of finding the home he longs for and two loving arms to hold him and help him let go of the hurt. Unfortunately, the tribe cannot provide these things. There are not enough foster homes and very few tribal members who have come forward to adopt.

Another problem is keeping large sibling groups together. There is also a shortage of people willing to adopt older children, ages 6 and older.

The first time I met a Citizen Potawatomi foster care parent, I knew that I would always remember her fondly. Not only is Paula Motley Haney (daughter of our former Business Committee member J. P. Motley) an inspiration, she is an example of someone who has a lot of love to



give. I also have to acknowledge Rick Short who preceded Janet in heading up our Indian Child Welfare efforts.

Today, the fight continues with ICW Case Managers Laurie Clark and David Gardner, Foster Care/Adoption Specialist Darla Ham, and Juvenile Officer/Detective LaTrenda Sanders. There are countless others, like tribal member B.J. Trousdale, who also carried or carry the torch for these children. The list is too long to include here, but the work they do is of immeasurable value.

As a family of nearly 30,000, I hope that we will come together to adopt these children. Every child deserves a happy home. For these young ones, they need to be shown that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that a tribal family welcomes them home. I can only imagine what the holiday season is like for these babies, young children, siblings, and teens. Our children, our tribal children, need our help. Please contact Janet Draper at 405-878-4831, toll free at 800-880-9880, or [jdraper@potawatomi.org](mailto:jdraper@potawatomi.org) via e-mail if you want to find out how you can provide a safe, loving foster home for a Citizen Potawatomi child or adopt one.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi. Lisa  
District Representative #11 (Oklahoma)  
[LKraft@Potawatomi.org](mailto:LKraft@Potawatomi.org)

## District #12 - Paul Schmidlkofer

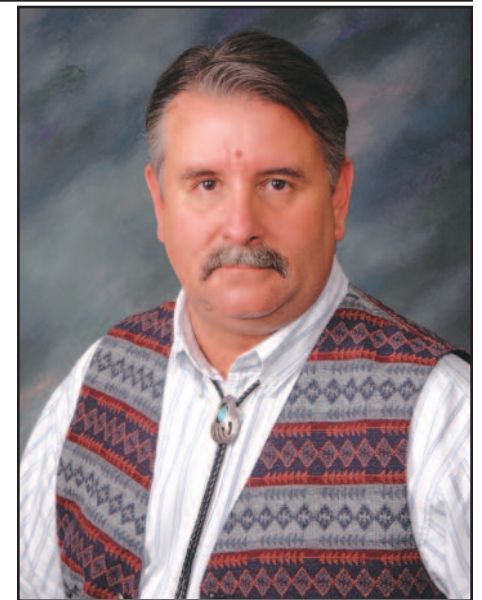
Bozho, Nikan!

I hope this issue of the *HowNiKan* finds each of you in good health and spirits. Having just finished a delicious Thanksgiving meal, I set my sites on the Christmas meal. As I've grown older and like many people, keeping a healthy weight is a continuous problem. As I stated in earlier articles, I give myself a pass on these two holidays. The downside to this kind of thinking is I have to pay for it the rest of the year. As Potawatomis, we cherish time together with friends and families. I so enjoy the holidays. I hope that all of you take the opportunity to get out and visit your family over the Christmas holiday.

In the previous month's article, I mentioned that the legislature had met to approve the new budget for the upcoming year. This is one of those tasks where we get to see all of what the tribe is doing for the members. It was encouraging to see that the Nation is weathering the current economic crisis as well as we have. Yes, we are feeling the crunch. But more important, we are managing to ride it out.

The diverse portfolio of enterprises we have has helped. There are other tribes which have not taken a sound business approach, and they are beginning to feel the recession bite at their heels. Here in Oklahoma, we have historically followed the economic trends by anywhere from one year to three years. The recession started showing up here around the middle of 2008.

Administration took actions prior to it happening to help us ride out the storm. This has meant some of the services we offer might be a little slower getting. Some positions might not have been refilled when we lost someone, and duties were merged with other positions. But more important, we haven't seen any of them being lost. More than likely you will not even notice any of these changes. That is evidence of both our strong leadership and fine employees. At a recent meeting, Tribal Rolls Director Chuck Clark mentioned we sent out more scholarship money this year



than ever before. Wow!

The current economic problems have affected many of our tribal members. There is no way to prevent this. The thing that we have that most people in this country don't have is a tribe that offers a second layer of help. We are fortunate in that regard. I hope we utilize this opportunity wisely. Please call the nation if you need help. There are things we can do. We cannot fix all problems, but many can be helped. Of course, it might take time, so be patient. But more important, know that the Nation is here.

On a sadder note, I lost my mother recently. She had lived a long, full life. Many of you contacted me offering your condolences and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you. Life continues much as it always did. But I will miss her just as I do all the elders in my life who have taken this journey.

With the holiday season upon me, I would like to wish all my relations a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Find time in your busy schedules to see each other this season and share the warmth of love with all. As always, it is both a privilege and an honor to serve our Nation.

Megwetch!  
Paul Schmidlkofer



**Logoed Apparel  
Signs - T-shirts  
Vehicle Graphics  
Promotional Items**  
41707 Hardesty Road  
Shawnee, Oklahoma  
877-347-2745

**Listen to  
"The Native American Speaks"  
on [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org) or on KGFF-AM (1450)  
or KOKC-AM (1520)**



## District #13- Bobbie Bowden

Bozho Nikan,

I hope this issue of the *HowNiKan* finds each of you in good health and ready for the holiday season.

One of the items at our last legislative session was to enroll our newest tribal members. It is amazing to me that how quickly our tribe is growing. At this last session, more than 400 new members were enrolled. It is so exciting to be a part of and watch the progress of our tribe and families.

I would also like to remind each of you to support our tribe's enterprises. This is a perfect time of year to visit the FireLake Gift shop, located in the Cultural Heritage Center, and look for any gifts for family members you might need. The selection of jewelry is incredible as well as Pendleton items and many more things that will be cherished by family members and passed on to future generations.

If you have family visiting Oklahoma for the holidays, take time for a trip to Shawnee and visit the Cultural Heritage Center. Especially for our younger members, this is a perfect time to begin a tradition of visiting our Heritage Center and seeing the growth and progress of our tribe. The new director of the Heritage Center is Karen Phillips, a CPN member, and she is doing a wonderful job. I might sound like a broken record but I truly believe it is worth the trip to visit the center.

You will not be disappointed.

While you are in Shawnee, you might also make a trip to the FireLake Grocery



Store and purchase your needed items for your holiday feast. One of the best ways to insure the future growth of our tribe is to support our enterprises. (Not to mention, they have some pretty good deals that help our pockets also!)

In closing, I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and New Year. And, I hope that, with all the craziness of the holiday season, you take time to stop and enjoy time with your families and make some lasting memories for the future as well as take time to remember those that have walked before us. Take time to share these memories with your children and those around you.

Thank you for the honor of representing you.

Megwetch,  
Bobbi Bowden

## Vice Chairman Linda Capps

Bozho,

My heart is filled with gratitude and humbleness for the numerous acts of kindness that have been bestowed upon my family during the recent loss of my beloved husband. CPN employees and tribal members have honored our family in a superior manner during this trying time. I thank each and everyone who so graciously acknowledged our loss.

My husband was a wonderful father, grandfather, and a favorite family man to a throng of relatives. He was also an exceptional educator and friend to a countless number of former students throughout his

41-year career in education. What an awesome tribute family, friends, former students, and co-workers gave to Roy Capps during his funeral service on December 14.

Although his loss is devastating and his absence creates an overwhelming void, I cannot discard the concept that he is "missed, but not missing." His presence will be with our family for the rest of our lives. I still see him in the actions of our sons and six grandchildren. I see his smile on their faces, and I hear his quick, witty retorts in their comments. From within our five young grandsons, I will see him on the baseball field and on the basketball court

for years to come.

Forty-four years is a lifetime in itself. Married so young, we grew up together and actually helped each other to be more successful in various stages of our lives. I am the person that I am today because of Roy Capps' devotion to me personally and professionally. I am, indeed, blessed.

Thank you for letting me briefly share the link to the most important part of my last forty-four years.

Linda Capps  
CPN Vice Chairman



## Chairman John Barrett

Bozho, Nikan (Hello, my friend),

My condolences to Vice Chairman Linda Capps on the loss of her husband Roy. Our hearts are with her and her family in this time of sorrow.

I hope all of you have a joyous Holiday season. This is the time for family. So please use it as an opportunity to give that "gift that money can't buy." The gifts I received as a child, the toys and clothes and books and goodies, are long gone. What I still have are my Mom's and Dad's, Aunts' and Uncles', Grandmothers' and Grandfathers' stories of their childhood, and their retelling of stories they were told by their elders. These are stories that tell you about their values and courage and humor. They are so very precious. These are the essence of what makes us Indian – family.

Your family history is the Citizen Potawatomi Nation history. They are one and the same. Your tribal history goes back to a common relative to every single one of our 28,600 people share in less than ten generations – the same grandma or grandpa. So give to them generously.

Collect the cell phones in your lap to slow up the texting, shut off the TV, get them around the table with the remains of the meal or with their feet up in the living room, and tell them some stories. Then, let each one of them tell you one. This is real gift-giving, the kind that lasts. Pass them on.

Our tribe continues to do well. The coming year will be one of building and growth. We have come through the worst of the economy's troubles, hopefully. We are using this windfall of "one-time" federal money to build our services and commerce infrastructure. Most of it is restricted to use here on our lands in Oklahoma.

The final facilities will enhance our ability to provide services to all of our members, though, through revenue generated or direct use in the future.

On a more immediate and present need, we need your help. We need to know who our tribal members are who are attorneys or judges or who practice law in some form. The Citizen Potawatomi Bar Association needs to be sure our legally-trained citizens are all licensed to practice law in our Courts. It appears that the federal law on Tribal Courts is changing rapidly.

If we do not demonstrate our own ability to make and enforce tribal law, the states or federal government will try to do it to us, not for us. It might soon be a "use it or lose it" environment. Please contact the CPN Court Clerk or me by phone or e-mail as soon as you read this if you are an attorney, judge, or paralegal - or if someone in your Potawatomi family is. Thank you for your help.

On November 5, I was invited to a "Tribal Summit" with President Obama in Washington, D.C. It was described in the announcement letter I received as being an exclusive "one-on-one" between the President and the chief elected official of each of the tribal nations, with great emphasis placed on the credentials process to exclude all others. Having seen seven presidents in office since I began serving as an elected official, none of whom kept their promises to tribes, I wasn't sure I wanted to be a part of just another "photo opportunity" for politicians, albeit one this time who had a potential for change simply because of who and what he is.

While I was also skeptical of a Presidential meeting at the BIA, not the White House, I still decided to go. After all



of these years as Tribal Chairman, you must know I am an optimist by nature. I also recalled the pledges Mr. Obama had made in October of 2008 during the campaign. And yes, I know presidential campaigns are like courtships in candlelight – things change in the light of day.

The October 2008 Obama campaign speech I remember made three unique points that I considered crucial for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. They were about the past, present, and future:

1. The federal government had lied and cheated and had ignored tribal governments.

2. Washington pays only lip service to helping Indian people within its tragic, wasteful, and inadequate federal service infrastructure.

3. He would fix it by keeping the Treaties. “I believe treaty commitments are paramount law, and I will fulfill those commitments as president of the United States.” - Barrack Obama, October 23, 2008.

No other President in my lifetime has said all three of these things, and in particular, made the last promise.

So, I arrived at the Summit, with a big crowd outside the Department of the Interior building, drums beating, demonstrators, taxi cabs, and TV cameras. Once inside and through the x-ray machine, I began looking for my fellow tribal leaders from Oklahoma to caucus about what we would bring up in the meeting because our state government has unique ways of circumventing Indian treaties.

It took a while, searching through the huge crowd of Indian corporate employees, Indian federal employees, Indian lobby groups, Indian veterans groups, tribal legislators, tribal employees, press people, and congressional staff. So much for the “one-on-one” exclusively for the chief elected officials. The place was packed. The meeting was brief - one of President Obama’s famous “town hall” formats.

Yes, good things were said. Photo opportunities were used and pictures were taken. He said this meeting wasn’t “lip service.” He spoke for a few minutes at the first, then came back later in the day. The President’s promise to hold a yearly policy “consultation” with tribal leaders was kept. His new Indian departmental appointees made some more promises between his visits. I caught an early flight home.

Since then, we have received some “impact money” to help the general eco-



nomie crisis, along with every other government in the United States. The BIA has changed some titles and moved some folks around to suit the new people. I have high hopes.

The Cobell lawsuit was settled by Congress for \$3.4 billion dollars. All the Indians with trust land were suing the BIA in a class action for 13 years. That’s not an Obama’s deal, that’s a Congress deal, but he put the pressure on to settle.

So \$3.4 billion is the final number. Now, that payment is not all for the “IIM” account holders – those individual Indians who filed the lawsuit to force the BIA to properly account for the money they had in trust for as long as 120 years (the suit was more about accounting, past and future, not the money). The 13 years of legal wrangling has been a bizarre soap opera, with huge sums of money “unaccounted for.”

The Federal Judge was removed under Bush administration charges of being “unfair.” The BIA went “incommunicado” – shutting off its phones and e-mail for years – YEARS! - In response to charges it had destroyed communications records.

Recall that Federal Judge Royce Lamberth was removed from the bench in the case when he held the Secretary of the Interior in contempt of court after Indian trust records were found in the trash at the BIA - records that had been subpoenaed. Back then, the number \$174 billion was bandied about in court as the proper amount of the settlement, while the BIA was saying \$150 million.

Well, at least it is settled after 13 years, even if the plaintiffs actually got \$1.4 billion, about 10% (before legal fees). They say the IIM individual account holders will get about \$1,000 each. I guess that’s some-

thing, and better than nothing, which is what I thought they would get.

Our Congressman called it shamefully low, but had to vote for it, he said, because of the admission that the government “lost” the money.

The Congress directed \$2 billion to be subtracted out of the \$3.4 billion settlement and given to tribal governments. The money is for purchasing tiny fractional ownerships of 1872 to 1896 allotments - held at present by the federal government for a dizzying number of heirs or tied up in probate. So many own it that no one owns it, keeping the land idle.

In my opinion, Congress just did the math, making future estimates of the federal government’s present expense of “cutting the checks” – the cost of distributing money made from individual trust land, plus future probate and property management costs - and paid its way out for pennies on the dollar. Oh, well.

By the way, didn’t the United States just give AIG, the “too-big-to-fail” failing insurance giant, \$150 BILLION in bailout money last year for nearly wrecking the entire financial structure of the United States, maybe the world, with a securities gamble? And didn’t AIG and the big banks that were players with AIG in this Ponzi-like scam get another \$300 billion in bailout TARP money from the government, while 9160 of their executives gave themselves bonuses of more than \$1,000,000 each? Not wages – BONUSSES! Crazy.

It is the ultimate detachment of behavior from responsibility. Those are publicly held stock corporations. That money belongs to the stockholders – you and me who have retirement investments and savings in 401k accounts – not these guys who mismanaged their companies. Kinda “puts you on the warpath,” as we say when we

kid each other here at the Nation.

But you can’t let it get you down. Time will tell.

We will begin the Tribal Chairman’s Regional Meetings next month, so look for your invitation in the mail. I plan to travel to our regular cities where we met for many years before we changed to our present form of District government. We will be holding several kinds of Citizen Potawatomi ceremonies at each of these events, weather permitting, especially the Naming Ceremony.

If you wish to be receive your Indian name at one of these, contact Vice Chairman Linda Capps or me for information about the way to make a traditional request to a “namer.” Plan ahead so we can do research on your old family names. Many of our people are doing namings now, so it will be easy to find someone in your area if you cannot come to the meeting.

Our Tribal legislators will also be holding events in their individual Districts, so watch for their notices. I hope everyone checks the Nation’s Website – [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org) - regularly. It is the best way to get the latest news.

Election time is coming, with the filing for office in January. I am so happy to hear that Vice Chairman Linda Capps intends to file for re-election, as does Secretary-Treasurer D. Wayne Trousdale. The Executive Branch needs their experience and talent.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Tribal Chairman and for your support and encouragement. I welcome and respect your opinions. Please call, write, or e-mail: 405-275-3121 or [rocky@potawatomi.org](mailto:rocky@potawatomi.org).

Megwetch,  
John Rocky Barrett, *Keweoge*  
Tribal Chairman

**Visit the  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
Cultural Heritage Center  
1899 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801  
Call 878-5830**



entrapped.

Wiske had held the buzzard in his body for so long that the feathers were all worn off the creatures head, and it was foul-smelling. In this way, Wiske had his revenge on the bird. Ever since, the buz-

zard has been obliged to reside in the south to protect his bald head.

"I want to reward you for saving me," said Wiske to the Indians. "Here are some pretty feathers to put in your sacred bun-

dles. But, don't call them buzzard feathers; from now on they will be changed."

The hunters told their people that the plumes were "Chief-bird feathers," and how they had rescued Wiske from the tree

and received the feathers as a reward.

Wiske claimed that he had more power over the birds than the Great Spirit does. The downfall of the buzzard was only due to Wiske's jealousy.

## The Origin of Sema

*Originally written down by Alanson Skinner*

Long ago, when the Potawatomis still lived on the ocean in the Wech Mokek and close to their grandfathers, the Delaware, a man had a dream that something extraordinary would grow in his garden that was situated in a clearing that he had made in a nearby river bottom. In his vision, he was warned never to let any women approach his farm, so he lopped down trees that fell partly over from the upright stumps, and thus formed a fence.

The people of his village began to think something was going on. They would try to catch a glimpse of what the man was doing. Before long, his relatives began to tease him that nothing would grow if he didn't plant any seeds in the ground.

After awhile in the summer, the people left the village to hunt, leaving the old man alone.

Before long a broad-leafed herb began to spring up, unseeded. The old man didn't know what to call this strange plant, but he took good care of it, and it prospered and grew thick. One day, a neighboring Delaware came to visit him, and he showed his friend the plant and explained that it had come as the result of vision from Mamogosnan.

The Delaware man told the old man, "My people also have this sacred herb. One of our tribal members also dreamed of it, the same way you did."

"How do you use this plant?" asked the Potawatomi man.

The Delaware man said, "My Grandson, if this was a gift to you from Mamogosnan, you ought to know. Certainly the Creator will reveal its use to you. If its use is not revealed to you between now and fall, come to me, and I will show you in what way we use ours."

The Potawatomi man was more confused than ever about what this plant could be used for, so he decided to fast to see if Mamogosnan would not tell him what he wanted to know. When he had gone without food for two days, the Great Spirit appeared to him and told him to gather the

leaves and dry them to use when he was praying, to put into a fire, and to smoke in the pwagen. He was told that, at every feast and sacrifice, tobacco was to be the principle thing.

After he had this vision, the old man went to a place near the sea where there was a hill of soft black stone. He broke off a long rectangular piece, and carved out a pipe. This pipe was very hard to make and, especially to bore, so at last he went to his Delaware friend for help. The Delaware man gave the Potawatomi man tools that made the job easier.

After finishing the pipe bowl the two made the pipe stem out of dry ash wood.

By this time the Delaware saw that his Potawatomi friend had learned the use of tobacco, so he took out his own pipe, filled it from his pouch, lit it, and passed it to his Potawatomi friend. The latter laughed and said, "I intend to smoke, but I certainly did not understand before."

The Potawatomi man harvested and dried his sema. His wife made him a pipe-bag and a bag for his sema. When the hunters returned from their hunt, the people all went to see what had grown in the mysterious garden. They wondered about this strange plant that had a strange appearance and strong taste.

The old man saw that people had been bothering his garden so he asked the chief to ask the people to stay out of his garden. The Chief told the people, "You should respect the old man for his age; he will tell what this plant is when he is ready."

One day the old man gave a feast, and seated the chief on his left. He said, "I am glad that you have respected my wishes and left me alone about my garden. All of you know that this plant has never been seen before. I did not make this plant, and it did not start growing out of nothing. We are all equal here. We all have eyes in our heads, but we may never be sure of what we see. Yet, the way you see something, is the way you think about. So we all see things a little differently.

"Our ways allow things to be revealed to us in dreams or when we fast. Some of us are given visions in dreams without ever fasting and they are truly blessed. You know what you saw in your dream and you follow your vision.

"I dreamed that something was going to grow where I had burned and cleared the earth for a garden, so I fenced it off as though a sacred bundle hung there. That was to keep women away from it. In time, a Delaware friend from the east told me that he knew of this plant but that I should fast so that the Creator would reveal its purpose to me.

"So I begin to fast, and on the second day the Creator appeared to me and told me how to use this herb, to put it down when I prayed, to offer it whenever I took something, to place it in the fire, to smoke it, and whatever I asked for would be given to me. I wouldn't always get what I wanted but always what I needed, whenever the spirit was involved in anything."

Mamogosnan told me to call this new plant sema or nen sema, and I give this feast in honor of this blessing that is to be with us and our people forever.

The chief now stood and said, "Migwech, Migwech. I want to speak a few words before I burn this tobacco. It is true our grandfathers, the Delaware, have this plant, I have seen then burn it, but never questioned then about it. I am thankful that you have brought this gift from the Creator to the people.

"My people, always think of the Wakshe, the fox of the fox clan, who got this for us. Now, I will burn this tobacco, and we will pray for him. He brought it here, and he will divide it among you. I want you to take it and use it when you are hunting. Put some down in the fire and tell our grandfather where you are going, and for how long. Never leave before telling our grandfather these things, and pray to the Great Spirit to watch over you."

The assembled people all cried out, "Ahau, okay," and they rejoiced and

thanked the old man, Fox.

### *Potawatomi word list*

Sema - tobacco  
Wech Mokek - East (literally direction where the sun rises)  
Wakshe - red fox  
Mamogosnan - Creator  
Migwech - thanks  
Pwagen - pipe  
Ahau - Okay

## Attention CPN Veterans

**I am Clyde Yates, a CPN member and Viet Nam veteran. I have trained as a Veterans Services Officer through the VFW, with the training done by certified VA services officers.**

**If you need any help with your service-connected VA disability claim, please call me at 405-598-0797. Tell the receptionist that you need assistance with a VA claim and need to contact Clyde Yates, service officer. I will return your call and set up an appointment. I will need your name and telephone number.**

**I look forward to talking to each one of you and helping CPN veterans.**

*C. 'Rowdy' Yates*  
405-598-0797

TVR/ODVA/VFW  
A.S.A. 1967-1971  
Viet Nam 1968-1969



Walking on, con't from page 3

**Gracie L. Degand**

Gracie L. Degand, 63, of Topeka walked on on Thursday, December 3, 2009. She was born on May 7, 1946, north of Topeka in Shawnee County, the daughter of Otis and Grace (Bixby) Busey.

Gracie lived in Topeka most of her life. She worked at the Kansas State Department of Motor Vehicles, Brewster Place, and Revco Drug before retiring due to health reasons. Gracie was the foundation of her family, keeping things running as smoothly as possible, regardless of what life threw her way.

While growing up she attended St. Joseph Catholic Church. As an adult, she was a faithful member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Eagles Aerie #4319.

Gracie married Michael Degand Jr. on October 2, 1964 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. They shared more than 45 years of married life together before Gracie's passing.

Survivors include her husband Mike Degand, Jr. of Rossville, Kansas; her children Michael J. Degand III of Topeka, Michelle Degand-Lopez and her husband Dean of Topeka, and Ali Degand of Rossville; her brother Al Busey and his wife Cheryl of Topeka; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2009. Interment followed in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Gracie Degand lay in state from noon until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9 at the Davidson Funeral Home. A rosary was recited at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the church. The family received friends following the rosary until 8:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association in care of Davidson Funeral Home.

**Roy W. Capps**

*(Editor's note: Roy Capps was not a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member. However, as the husband of Vice Chairman Linda Capps, he was very well-known to and much loved by CPN members. He also taught and coached many CPN members through the years.)*

Roy Capps, 62, went home to be with the Lord December 9, 2009 after a five-month battle with lung cancer. He was born January 14, 1947 at Prague, Oklahoma, the son of Duel and Polly Capps of McLoud.

Roy graduated from McLoud High School in 1965, and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Central State University (UCO). Capps was married to Linda Moore Capps for 44 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Jane; his mother-in-law, Jessie Moore; brothers-in-law, Harold Moore and Edmond Hopcus; nephew, Donnie Clark; and several aunts and uncles.

Survivors include his wife, Linda of Shawnee; brothers & sisters-in-law, Cecil and Nancy of Las Vegas, Nevada and Jimmy & Oneta of Meeker; daughter & son-in-law, Kimberly and Larry Brown of Tecumseh; sons and daughters-in-law, Brian & Staci Capps of Ada and Aaron & Melissa Capps of McLoud; six grandchildren, Kayla Brown of Tecumseh, Hunter and Carson Capps of Ada, and Scout, Cole, and Cade Capps of McLoud; brother-in-law and his wife, Eddie and Sue Moore of Choctaw; sisters-in-law and their husbands, Evelyn and Lloyd Chase of Lawton, Marilyn and Don Clark of Macomb, Rosa and Hub Reed of Shawnee, and Julie Walden of Harrah, and dozens of loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Roy Capps was a lifelong educator in



the state of Oklahoma. He began his coaching career at Union City in 1969. He coached and taught at Deer Creek of Edmond, Chickasha High School, Lomega High School, and Tecumseh High School, from which he retired as Vice-Principal on December 1, 2009 with more than over 40 years of educational service.

Roy was an all-state basketball player in high school and a collegiate basketball and baseball player, where he made the All-College Baseball Team for three consecutive years. As a high school athlete, he was named Little All-City Player of the Year in 1965. Then as a coach, Capps was named Little All-City Coach of the Year in 1971.

His participation in athletics as a young person spurred one of his greatest joys in life: watching his children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews participate in basketball and baseball. As a loving Christian man with a keen sense of wit, Capps won the respect of countless former students and athletes throughout the state. His immediate and extended family members greatly loved and will truly miss their Uncle Roy, Papa, Daddy.

Roy and Linda attended Blackburn Chapel Baptist Church at Bethel. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed hunting with his brother, sons, grandsons, and friends. He was a member of several professional education and hunting organizations.

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 10:00 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee. The family has designated the Roy Capps Memorial Scholarship Fund at Tecumseh High School, 901 N. 13th Street, Tecumseh, OK 74873 as appropriate for memorials.

**Arthur R. Pryor**

Arthur R. Pryor, born September 4, 1918, passed away on November 7, 2009. Arthur passed away in his home at the age of 91 years in San Juan Capistrano, California, with his family by his side.

Arthur was a Real Estate Broker in the city of Fullerton, California. One of his accomplishments that he was proud of was being instrumental in the development of Fender Avenue for Leo Fender, founder of Fender Guitar. Arthur and his wife, Betty Pryor knew each other since second grade and all through high school in Fullerton where he was an All-Star California Interscholastic Federation football and water polo player.

Arthur and Betty danced to the big bands, golfed, fished, and traveled all over the world and the country. Arthur truly loved his family and was loved back.

He is survived by wife, Betty; daughters, Penny, Arlene, and Sandy; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Cecelia.

He will be truly missed and loved every day by all loved him. Services were burial at sea.

**Jane Smith**

Jane Smith, 74, of Tucumcari, New Mexico died Friday, September 25, 2009 at her home in Tucumcari. Memorial services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at Temple Baptist Church in Tucumcari with Brother West Stewart officiating. Burial was be in Mission Garden of Memories

Jane was born July 8, 1935, the daughter of Jimmy W. and Pauline E. (Herridge) Elliott in Clovis, New Mexico. She was a member of Temple Baptist Church for years and years, where she was a very

See WALKING ON on page 24



Walking on, con't. from page 23



instrumental part of seeing Temple Baptist up and going. She worked in afternoon Sunday School, on the bus route for years, cleaned the church, or did anything else that needed to be done. She also sang specials and helped design the culottes that all the girls loved so much.

Jane went to Culloden, Georgia for a year to assist in getting the Christian Deaf School up and going. She enjoyed working with the deaf very much. She loved watching them on skit nights and showing them new things. She most recently worked as a beautician until her retirement after 45 years.

Jane had a prison outreach ministry for more than 15 years, where she faithfully wrote, witnessed, and prayed to more than 15 inmates every day. During her outreach, she saw many saved and changed lives. Even after she became sick and home-bound, she faithfully prayed and supported many, many people all of those years. She enjoyed painting and sewing and loved the flowers in her garden especially pink petunias.

Jane was a fantastic mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She will be greatly missed by all her family.

Survivors include two daughters, Telisa D. Gray of Tucumcari and Stacey Mias of California; a sister, Gayle Elliott of Meeker, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Telisa R. Lujan, Joshua M. Hicks, Matthew L. Gray, Jacob A. Gray, all of Tucumcari, Leslie Rittenhouse, Laura Faith Hardin Coleman, Suzanna Hardin, and Charity Ann Hardin, all of Clovis, New Mexico, and Michael J. Stanton, Denver, Colorado;

nephew, Curtis 'Chip' Brown of Meeker; and great-grandchildren, Cayden J. Hicks and Andrew Lujan, both of Tucumcari, Xadrian Hardin Coleman, Diego Hardin Coleman, Saizhe Burton, Eaver Hardin, Xavier Hardin, Curtis Rittenhouse, Robert Rittenhouse, and Dante Hardin, all of Clovis, and Notoryan Hardin and Tembak K. Stanton of Denver.

She was preceded in death by her father, J.W. Elliott; mother, Pualine E. Paschal; son, Curtis D. Hardin; great-grandson, Nicholas Quintana; husband, Tommy Passmore, and late husband, H.A. Smith.

Arrangements were handled by Muffley Funeral Home, Inc.

#### Norma Jean (Powers) Liddell



*(Editor's note: While not a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member herself, Norma Liddell was the widow of a former CPN Chairman, the mother of a current CPN Legislator, and the mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother of several CPN members.)*

**SHAWNEE, Okla.** — Shawnee resident Norma Jean (Powers) Liddell, 80, died on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. She was born on October 19, 1929 in Shawnee, the daughter of Gray E. and Ione (Furnas) Powers.

She graduated from Shawnee High School. In October 1949, she married Paul E. Schmidtkofer and raised five sons and a daughter. On February 2, 1993, she married C.P. Liddell. Norma worked in a variety of positions and retired from Red Rock

Mental Health in 1993. Norma enjoyed cooking, flowers, collecting bird houses, and being with her many children and grandchildren.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Don and Buddy Powers; and husband, Charles Liddell.

Survivors include her children, Steve Schmidtkofer of Seminole, Tim Schmidtkofer of Tecumseh, Paul Schmidtkofer and his wife, Janie, of Tecumseh, James Schmidtkofer and his wife, Eva, of Okemah, Frank Schmidtkofer and his wife, Monica of Tecumseh, Patricia Schmidtkofer of Shawnee; daughter-in-law Jackie Schmidtkofer of McCloud; eight grandchildren, Candace LaHue, Jennifer Wilson, Bryan Schmidtkofer, Lindsey Schmidtkofer, Brooke Smith, Jessica Schmidtkofer, Emily Olson, and Baylee Schmidtkofer; five great-grand children, Colton, Megan, Nicholas, Raymond, and Cordelia; brothers and sisters-in-laws, Harold and Jean Marie Liddell of Norman, Dick and Betty Liddell of Norman, Doris Dahl, of Norman and Helen Jean and Ken Sage of San Diego, California.

A Rosary Service was held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 22 at Resthaven Funeral Home Chapel. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 23, at St. Benedict's Catholic Church under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home.

#### Kristyn Nichole Warneke

Kristyn Nichole Warneke, 19, of Norman, Arkansas died on Thursday, November 12, 2009. She was born on August 16, 1990, at Hot Springs, Arkansas, the daughter of Ken Warneke and Darlene (Ponder) Warneke. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Ray Ponder, and her great-aunt, Ina Warneke.

Kristyn was a 2008 honor graduate of Caddo Hills High School where she was a member of Beta, Future Career and Community Leaders of America, and Future Business Leaders of America. She was on the golf team and basketball team and loved playing softball. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mount Ida, Arkansas. She attended Henderson State University and was employed at Aeropostle. Kristyn enjoyed shopping and had a very outgoing personality.

She is survived by her parents, Ken and Darlene Warneke of Norman; her sister,



Katelyn Warneke of Norman; her brother, Billy Vann of Sherwood, Arkansas; her paternal grandparents, L. J. and Mary Warneke of Mount Ida; her maternal grandmother, Louise Ponder of Norman; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2009 in the Davis-Smith Funeral Home Chapel in Glenwood, Arkansas with Rev. John Guerra officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Kristyn Warneke Memorial Scholarship Fund at any Diamond Bank location.

Arrangements were under the direction of Davis-Smith Funeral Home, Glenwood. Guest registry is at [www.davis-smith.com](http://www.davis-smith.com).



**WIRELESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET**

**SERVICE AVAILABLE NOW**

**NO TERM COMMITMENT**

**NO TELEPHONE LINE**

**NO DEPOSIT**

**NO SATELLITE**

**\* \$50.00 per MONTH**

**LRC GROUP LLC**

**[www.LRCnet.net](http://www.LRCnet.net)**

**LEXINGTON, OK**

**(405) 620-2667**

**\* \$250.00 INSTALLATION AND SETUP**